

# 30 Where, when, why, how

1 Where, when, why, and how are question words. We use them like this:

- ▶ **Where**  
We use **where** to ask about places:  
*Where is Mike? – He's at home.*
- ▶ **When**  
We use **when** to ask about times and dates:  
*When will you phone? – At six o'clock.*
- ▶ **Why**  
We use **why** to ask about the reason for something:  
*Why is Mary taking a taxi? – Because her car isn't working.*
- ▶ **How**  
We use **how** to ask 'in what way?':



*How did he get to Brighton? ~ He went by train.*

We also use **how** to ask about people's health or happiness:

*Hello. How are you? ~ I'm fine, thanks.*

2 We form questions with **where, when, why** and **how** like this:

- ▶ In questions with **be**, we put the subject after **be**:

	be +	SUBJECT	
Why	is	Paul	angry?
Where	are	they?	
Why	is	he	here?

- ▶ In questions with an auxiliary verb (**will, is, are, can, must, etc.**), we put the subject after the auxiliary verb:

	VERB +	SUBJECT +	VERB
Why	are	they	leaving?
How	will	she	get there?
When	will	you	phone?

(For auxiliary verbs, see Unit 27.)

- ▶ In questions with a Present Simple or Past Simple verb, we put a form of **do** before the subject:

	do +	SUBJECT +	VERB
Where	does	she	live?
Why	did	you	phone the police?
Where	did	he	live?

## Practice

A Put the words in brackets ( ) in the right order to make questions.

- ▶ (you – where – live – do – ?) *Where do you live?*.....
- 1 (do – get up – you – when – ?) .....
- 2 (she – does – where – come – from – ?) .....
- 3 (leaving – they – are – when – ?) .....
- 4 (he – is – why – waiting – ?) .....
- 5 (are – you – how – ?) .....
- 6 (did – to Scotland – how – get – you – ?) .....
- 7 (is – where – the town centre?) .....
- 8 (Paul – drive – so fast – does – why – ?) .....
- 9 (when – the film – does – start – ?) .....
- 10 (will – how – you – travel – ?) .....
- 11 (is – running – she – why – ?) .....
- 12 (did – where – buy – you – that picture – ?) .....

**B Put *where, when, why* or *how* in the gaps.**

- ▶ Where..... are you going? ~ To the shops.
- 1 ..... are you leaving? ~ At six o'clock.
- 2 ..... does she take a taxi to work? ~ Because she doesn't have a car.
- 3 ..... did they get to France? ~ By boat.
- 4 ..... is he studying Spanish? ~ Because he wants to work in Spain.
- 5 ..... do you have breakfast? ~ At half past seven.
- 6 ..... is the restaurant? ~ In Carlton Street.
- 7 ..... are you feeling today? ~ I've got a headache.
- 8 ..... did she buy that dictionary? ~ In the bookshop near the station.
- 9 ..... did Pam go to the police? ~ Because she lost her passport.

**C Use the 'full' answers to write questions with *where, when, why* or *how*.  
(We usually use the short, underlined answers when we reply to a question.)**

- ▶ Question: When did you lose your bag?.....  
Answer: (I lost my bag) On Saturday morning.
- 1 Question: .....  
Answer: (I met Joanna) At a disco in the centre of town.
- 2 Question: .....  
Answer: (I went to the disco) By bus.
- 3 Question: .....  
Answer: (I'm looking for a new job) Because I want more money.
- 4 Question: .....  
Answer: (The nearest hospital is) In Park Street.
- 5 Question: .....  
Answer: (You get to Park Street) On the number 38 bus.
- 6 Question: .....  
Answer: (They're going to see the film) On Friday evening.
- 7 Question: .....  
Answer: (She left the party at ten o'clock) Because she was tired.
- 8 Question: .....  
Answer: (He's studying English) At a language school in Edinburgh.

**D If the underlined words are wrong, change them. Put a tick (✓) if they are right.**

- ▶ How is does..... she get to work in the mornings?
- ▶ Where do ✓..... you normally go for your holidays?
- 1 How is ..... your father?
- 2 Why do ..... you working so hard at the moment?
- 3 When does ..... she finish work yesterday afternoon?
- 4 Why do ..... you go to the bank every day?
- 5 Where does ..... Peter yesterday?
- 6 Where do ..... Mike live?
- 7 How do ..... you get from the art gallery to the swimming pool?