

Understanding Spoken Language - Wh Questions

What are they?

As parents of a young child, no doubt you already know that What is the earliest question mastered! Then your child will ask and answer Who and Where questions. Later, they will be able to ask and answer When and Why questions.

Understanding and using wh questions enables your child to ask and answer questions about the world around them.

Every day you have many opportunities to give your child practice in questioning and answering techniques. Try to work it into everyday routines or conversations to make it more natural for your child. Use everyday activities, look at others, looking at photographs or storybook, or pictures in schoolbooks.

It is important to only work on only one type of wh question at a time, so as not to confuse your child.

What? Questions

Example questions

- 'What is that?'
- 'What is her name?'
- 'What is Spot doing?'
- 'What does he want?'
- 'What did Goldilocks eat?'
- 'What are they looking for?'
- 'What time is it?'
- 'What colour is Noddy's car?'
- 'What do you like on your pizza?'
- 'What happened next?'
- 'What do you think will happen next?'

Who? Questions

Example questions

- 'Who is that?'
- 'Who sits beside you?'
- 'Who are the children on your team?'
- 'Who scored the winning goal?'
- 'Who lives in the castle?'
- 'Who wants ice-cream?'
- 'Who is going to help me wash the dishes?'
- 'Who would like to sing and dance?'

Where? Questions

Example questions

- 'Where does he live?'
- 'Where did Harry hide the ball?'
- 'Where are we going tomorrow?'
- 'Where do you wear your shoes?'
- 'Where did Jack and Jill fall down?'
- 'Where do we put the milk?'
- 'Where do Pandas live?'
- 'Where were the Three Billy Goats Gruff going?'
- 'Where will they find Goldilocks asleep?'

When? Questions

Example questions

- 'When do you wear your boots?'
- 'When do you brush your teeth?'
- 'When did we go to the seaside?'
- 'When will Santa come?'
- 'When it is raining, do you play outside?'
- 'When you are happy, do you smile?'
- 'When do owls fly about in the sky?'
- 'When do you have to go to bed?'

Why? Questions

Example questions

- 'Why is the boy happy?'
- 'Why did the lady shout?'
- 'Why will the man be sad?'
- 'Why did Spot hide in the box?'
- 'Why do we have to show kind hands?'
- 'Why was Baby Bear crying?'
- 'Why do you feed the fish every day?'