

QUESTION WORDS

Vocabulary

who – used to ask or talk about which person is involved or what the name of a person is

what – used to ask for information or for someone's opinion

where – used to ask for place or position

when – used to ask for time

which – used to ask about choice

whose – used to ask about ownership

why – used to ask for reason

whom – used instead of "who" as the object of a verb or preposition

how – used to ask for manner, condition, or quality

how far – used to ask for distance

how long – used to ask for length (time or space)

how many – used to ask for quantity (countable)

how much – used to ask for quantity (uncountable)

how old – used to ask for age

question – an interrogative expression often used to test knowledge

freshman – a student in the first year of high school or university

humanities – learning concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy

calculation – when you use numbers in order to find out an amount, price, or value

subject – an area of knowledge that you study at a school or university

fascinated – extremely interested by something or someone

entertaining – amusing and interesting

pattern – a repeated design

motto – a short sentence or phrase giving a rule on how to behave, which expresses the aims or beliefs of a person, school, or institution

plot – the story of a book, film, play

message – a spoken or written piece of information that you send to another person or leave for them

notification – official information about something

date – a particular day of the month or year, especially shown by a number

interview – a formal consultation usually to evaluate qualifications (as of a prospective student or employee)

job – the regular paid work that you do for an employer

company – a business organization that makes or sells goods or services

mass-market – the market for goods that are produced in large quantities

shop assistant – a person who serves customers in a shop

sphere – an area of activity, interest, or expertise

field – a subject that people study or an area of activity that they are involved in as part of their work

CV (short for Curriculum Vitae) – a short written document that lists your education and previous jobs, which you send to employers when you are looking for a job

position – someone's or something's level, authority, or importance in a society or organization

Verbs

to ask – to speak or write to someone in order to get an answer, information, or a solution

to question – to ask someone questions in order to get information about something

to answer – to speak or write in response

to reply – to answer someone by saying or writing something

to respond (to) – to do something as a reaction to something that has been said or done

to refer (to) – to look at or in something for information

to leave – to go away from a place or a person

to major in – specialize in a particular subject at college or university

to study for something – to learn or memorize information in order to prepare for some upcoming quiz, test, examination

to study up on someone or something – to learn a lot of information about someone or something, especially in a short span of time

to review – a careful examination of a situation or process

to learn – to gain knowledge of a subject or skill, by experience, by studying it or by being taught

to oversleep – to sleep for longer than you intended

to be late – arriving, happening, or done after the time that was expected, agreed, or arranged

to photoshop – to use a computer program to make changes to a digital image

Phrases

it is worth doing something – it is enjoyable or useful despite the fact that you have to make an effort

I have no regrets – I am satisfied with what I have now

I dig it – I like it very much OR I am very much interested in it

to try one's best – to do all that one can

to have fun – to enjoy oneself

to grab lunch – to eat lunch

to wear makeup – to put on your face colored substances that can change your appearance

I jumped into my jeans – I put on my jeans very quickly

no way – no chance, it cannot be true

to pull an all-nighter – to deprive yourself of sleep to do things that need to be done or you want to do, usually used for studying

staff reduction – when the amount of people who work for an organization is reduced, lowered

to work overtime – to spend time working at one's job in addition to one's normal working hours

I am a fast learner – I learn very quickly, fast

to be eager to learn something – to be very excited to learn something

so far – to a certain limited extent

Grammar Corner

We invert the word order of the affirmative sentence to create a question. We put a verb, an auxiliary verb, or a modal verb at the beginning of the question.

e.g. Are you alright?

Is it pouring?

Am I late again?

We can use *Wh- question words* to ask for additional information. In this case, we should put these words at the beginning of the question, then we follow the same pattern as with regular questions.

e.g. What do you want from me?

Where is everyone?

Why can't we just go home?

If we use the question word *who*, we simply replace the subject of the affirmative sentence with *who*. Note that since *who* denotes a 3rd person singular, it should be conjugated accordingly.

e.g. I like ice cream.

Who likes ice cream? I do!

Carol spilled milk.

Who spilled milk? Carol did!

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2, P3 – Person 3)

Freshmen

P1: Hey there! Is this seat free?

P2: Hi! Yes, you can sit here if you want.

P1: Cool. My name is Martin, by the way. I am a freshman. What's your name?

P2: Nice to meet you, Martin. My name is Alex. I'm in my first year too.

P1: What do you major in?

P2: English and Philosophy. What about you?

P1: Oh, humanities. I chose the opposite field of studies – Mathematics.

P2: Wow, sounds difficult. How is it so far?

P1: I love it! Actually, I have no regrets. This is definitely not for everyone, but I dig it. Do you like philosophy? Isn't it kinda boring?

P2: I bet calculations are not more entertaining than philosophy. So my answer is yes, I like philosophy. It's not an easy subject but it's worth it. I took a Philosophy class at high school and got completely fascinated by all theories and concepts, but I had to study up on it to get into college.

P1: Hmm, I see.

P2: What about you? Was it your dream to study Math?

P1: Yes, I've always known that I would choose Math as my major.

P2: How interesting! Honestly, it's difficult for me to see a small kid enjoying solving all these math problems for hours.

P1: Well, when you're a kid, you don't really think of math in that sense. It was more about noticing patterns.

P2: Noticing patterns? What do you mean exactly?

P1: Everything in nature has a certain pattern, be it a hive or waves.

P2: Such an interesting way to put it! You can totally see you studying some Philosophy too!

P1: Haha, thanks!

P2: Do you enjoy studying at college?

P1: Yes, absolutely! I like the freedom that it gives us. I also learned a new skill – how to party all night and still be a functioning human being in the morning.

P2: Definitely a superpower! To be honest though, I don't have time for parties. Usually, I spend nights at the library. When do you do homework?

P1: I do it right before a class or pull all-nighters.

P2: You have the best of two worlds, huh?

P1: Thank you, I'm trying my best! Give yourself some time and you'll see that it is in fact possible, do not lose an opportunity to have fun when you're young.

P2: Is this your motto?

P1: Yes! Alright, it seems like the class is about to start. Want to grab some lunch afterward?

P2: Sure! That would be great.

My Day

P1: Hello, Alan!

P2: Hi there! How are you doing, Lilly?

P1: I'm great, thanks! Do you have a couple of minutes?

P2: Sure! Is everything alright?

P1: Yeah, totally!

P2: It's just that you said "a couple of minutes", but usually we talk for hours. I thought you were sick or something.

P1: Haha, true! I'm trying to cut it down cause I feel like I've been bugging you, but I just can't help it, I had a crazy day today!

P2: No worries! I love talking with you! What happened?

P1: Well, it all started with me hitting a snooze button like 10 times today, so instead of waking up at 7 am like I was supposed to, I got up at 8. Clearly, I was running late, so I didn't even have time to put on makeup.

P2: Is it allowed to wear makeup at your work?

P1: Yes, I always wear light makeup. So, this morning I didn't put on any makeup. I jumped into my jeans and a white shirt and ran to the train station. And you know who did I met there?

P2: No way!

P1: Yes! Billy!

P2: That guy who you met online a few weeks ago?

P1: Yes! That Billy!

P2: Billy who wanted to go on a date with you on Friday?

P1: Mhm. And what day is it today?

P2: Friday! Oh, no. Did he see you?

P1: Of course he saw me, we were sitting on a train opposite each other. I've never felt so embarrassed in my entire life.

P2: Did you talk?

P1: He didn't recognize me.

P2: How so?

P1: Because in all of my photos on a dating website I am wearing bright makeup. I won't lie, some of them are photoshopped.

P2: This is terrible. It all sounds like a cheap comedy plot. Where is my popcorn?

P1: That is not funny!

P2: No, it is! Alright, continue. What happened next?

P1: He texted me! And my sound was on, so he heard my message notification.

P2: Did he recognize you then?

P1: Yes. The message said, "Without makeup, you look even more beautiful".

P2: Oh wow, now it sounds like a plot for a soap opera.

P1: Well, he's picking me up in 2 hours.

P2: You'd better not put makeup on or he won't recognize you again.

P1: Stop it!

P2: Sorry, I just can't stop laughing. I'm very happy for you two though.

Job Interview

P1: Hello! My name is Joan Smith. I am here for a job interview.

P2: Good morning, Mrs. Smith! Welcome to C. Please wait for a few minutes, I'll notify our hiring manager that you are here. She will be your interviewer.

sometime later

P3: Mrs. Smith, come in.

P1: Hello!

P3: Hello, sit down please, make yourself comfortable.

P1: Thank you.

P3: How are you doing today?

P1: I am doing great, thank you! How are you?

P3: I am great, thank you for asking. Shall we start then?

P1: Yes, sure.

P3: Let me introduce myself first. My name is Alison Wilson, I am the Hiring Manager at C. I have acquainted myself with your CV, and I was impressed with a wide range of experiences you have.

P1: Thank you! I've been following C's development for quite some time and I am impressed with your client-oriented policy.

P3: Interesting. This is definitely the main focus of ours. We are striving to provide the best shopping experience, that is why having exceptional staff members is so important for us. Could you tell me more about your experience in the sphere of the fashion industry?

P1: Of course. I have been working for 2 years in one mass-market clothing company as a shop assistant, so I have a lot of experience in this field.

P3: Yeah, I saw this in your CV. By the way, why did you leave your previous position?

P1: I moved to another city.

P3: I see. Alright, what are your strengths and weaknesses?

P1: I am a hard-working person and a fast learner. On top of that, I get along with people and find joy in working with customers. As to my weaknesses, sometimes I may find it difficult to work overtime.

P3: How about working under stress?

P1: I'm completely used to that. As a shop assistant, I face these situations daily, so this is not something that I fear or have problems with.

P3: Why do you think you are a good fit for this position?

P1: I have quite a good understanding of the job. I believe that I can handle it with ease, and I hope to have the opportunity to work at C. and be part of an amazing team.

P3: Great. Do you have any questions for me?

P1: I am wondering what my typical day will look like.

P3: Of course. Your workweek is 40 hours, pretty standard. As a shop assistant, you should be aware of all our clothing collections, even the limited ones. As soon as a client appears, your goal is to make them feel so comfortable so that they would like to come back again and again. You should always stay positive and smile. If a client is confused and can't make a choice, make sure to provide advice.

P1: I see, thank you!

P3: Thank you, Mrs. Smith. Unfortunately, I have some urgent issues to attend to, so I have to cut our interview short. Expect to hear from us within 3-4 days.

P1: I understand. Thank you very much for having me here today!

P3: Thank you as well. Have a nice day!

P1: You too!