WH-QUESTIONS

Jackie Fung King Lee; Tsoi Lam Yan

The Education University of Hong Kong

Target Students: Lower intermediate

Corpus Used: British National Corpus (http://corpus.leeds.ac.uk/)

Corpus Concordance English (https://www.lextutor.ca/conc/eng/)

Class Duration: 120 minutes

Materials:

"The Present"	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XA0bB79oGc
"Do Not Abandon Your Pet"	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYaDEyzs3T8
"Pet Adoption"	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4n5mxjgn8Y

Lesson Objectives: By the end of the lessons, the students will be able to:

1. identify the correct *wh*-words, word order and verb phrase structure in *wh*-questions;
2. ask *wh*-questions in a role play on pet adoption;
3. demonstrate positive values and attitudes (e.g. empathy, respect and a sense of responsibility) for animals

Procedures

Part A Video Watching

(1) Watch a video clip about a boy who hates his disabled dog. While you are watching, write three questions about the story.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XA0bB79oGc

My Questions about the video:
e.g. What colour is the dog?

1.

2.

3.

(2) Your teacher will ask some students to read aloud their questions. Write down the questions and answer them below.

Part B Structure of *Wh*-questions

1. *Wh*-words

Question words	Meaning	Examples
Who	person (subject / object)	Who is that man? That's my uncle. Who has saved you? Who did you see?
Whom	person (object)	Whom did you see? To whom have you given the chocolates?
What	idea action object	What do you think? What are you doing? What is that?
Where	place	Where is your school?
When	time	When do you go to school? At 7:00.
Why	reason	Why do you sleep late? I've to finish my work.
How	manner	How do you go to school? By bus.
Which	choice	Which dish should we choose?
Whose	possession	Whose is this pen?

Read the lines below. Fill in the correct question words.

1. _____ are you doing here, sir? the boys asked, surprised.
2. _____ did the football finish? Five o'clock? Six o'clock?'
3. _____ did you write the other letter to?' I asked. 'Mr Windibank
4. _____ were the other two pages?' 'One was on the table near
5. _____ do you want me to tell a lie to the police?' asked Lily.
6. _____ did Queen Elizabeth II become Queen? a 1945 b 1952
7. _____ is the glove?' Jo asked. 'It's in Mr. Brooke's coat,'
8. _____ were you when the soldiers came?' 'I was at my wedding
9. _____ should I make my payments? You can pay by cash or by cheque
10. _____ did you come into this room?' 'At about half-past four.
11. '_____ did you put in the wine?' 'Just a little mandrake fruit.'
12. _____ is the orange juice? Mine. Do you want some? No thank you.
13. _____ is she? We do not know her name, though it is unlikely that
14. _____ is best, fresh, dried or canned? Calorie-wise, all fresh fruit is lower than both dried and tinned.

2. *Wh*-phrases

(a) Read the lines below. Circle the word(s) after 'What', 'Whose' and 'Which'.

1. What game are you playing?
2. 'What time do you want to come tomorrow?' 'Mid-morning if that's possible.'
3. What help will I get from my Social Services Department?
4. 'What car do you drive?' 'I don't have a car.'
5. What age is he? … God, he's big for three.
6. 'What colour is it?' 'Black,' said the boy. 'I saw a black dog last night.'
7. What part of the year are we in now, for heaven's sake?
8. 'What kind of meat is this?' I said, holding it out on the palm of my hand.'
9. 'Whose side are you on?' Menzies snapped back.
10. Whose turn was it this time? He wondered if it was anyone he knew.
11. Whose funeral is it? 'A neighbour of mine,' the man said.
12. Which aircraft have we got?
13. Which country do you live in?
14. 'Which way did he go?' 'He's gone round the pubs to look for you.'

What kind of word can be used with 'What' / 'Whose' / 'Which' (e.g. verb, noun, adjective, adverb)?

Answer: We can put a _____ after 'What' / 'Whose' / 'Which' to ask a question.

(b) Read the lines below. Circle the word after 'How'.

1. 'How angry are you with me?' she said.
2. How bad is the problem?
3. How old is he? He is seventy-nine. Good God, he looks about fifty.
4. How strong are you? Can you do five full press-ups from the floor?
5. 'How long is your arm, Mummy?' asked Endill. 'About a foot and a half long.
6. How long is a piece of string?

What kind of word can be used with 'How' (e.g. verb, noun, adjective, adverb)?

Answer: We can put a/an _____ after 'How' to ask a question.

(c) Read the lines below. Circle the word after 'How'.

1. 'How far have I really got?' I wondered. 'And where do I go now?' said Jay lightly.
2. How often do I make my donations? A. It's up to you whether you prefer to pay monthly,
3. How seriously did the Conservative Party take the Labour challenge?
4. How well did you remember it?
5. How quickly can one learn a language?
6. How long have you got to wait before they'll offer you something?
7. 'How long have you been in love then?' 'Oh, about three months,'

What kind of word can be used with 'How' (e.g. verb, noun, adjective, adverb)?

Answer: We can also put a/an _____ after 'How' to ask a question.

3. Word order

(1) What is the difference between a statement and a question? Read the following lines. Underline the subject of each statement and circle the verb. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. Often infected people are rejected by family and friends.
2. None of them is new and they are all straightforward.
3. Both programmes are the largest of their kind in the country.
4. Nobody seems to have explained this to her, but finally
5. Her daughters have however been contacted
6. He walked through the mountains for seventy-two hours after escaping.
7. No other organisation can help. We agree to help and perhaps I can combine the two visits.

What is the order of the subject and the verb in a statement? Circle the right answers.

Answer: In a statement, the [subject / verb] comes before the [subject / verb].

(2) Read the questions below. Underline the subject of each question and circle the verb.

1. 'When does it start?' one asked another.' 'Half past nine, I think.'
2. 'What is it, Peggy?' asked David.
3. 'When are you moving in?' 'Tomorrow.'
4. Why is opera fashionable now?
5. How could she have been so blind?
6. What colour are the seats in the House of Lords?
7. What size is your bed? What type of bed do you own?
8. When does summer end and autumn begin?

What is the order of the subject and the (auxiliary / helping) verb in a question? Circle the correct answers.

Answer: In a question, the [subject / (helping) verb] comes before the [subject / (helping) verb].

4. Insertion of dummy 'do'

Read the lines below. When do we add the auxiliary verb 'do' to form a question?

1. 'Why do you ask me?'
2. 'When did you see these two men?' Holmes asked.
3. 'OK,' he said. 'When can you start?'
4. 'When will the hijackers set them free?'
5. 'When did you see him again?'
6. 'What's happening?' screamed Mr Robb. 'Why aren't we moving?'
7. What size is your bed?
8. What type of bed do you own?
9. How has this happened?
10. Why is it doing this to me?

When do we add the auxiliary verb 'do' to form a question?

Answer: The auxiliary verb 'do' is added in Questions _____, _____, _____ and _____ because these sentences do not have verbs such as _____.

5. Form of the main verb

(a) Circle the main verb in each question. What is the verb form?
The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. 'Why do you want me to tell a lie to the police?' asked Lily.
2. 'Why did you do that?' 'They wanted a name.'
3. 'Why do you keep a room like this?'
4. 'Who is he? Where does he come from? What does he want from me?'
5. What does she learn? Something about herself?
6. What does he think about the British and Food?
7. What does she plan to do with the photograph?
8. How long did you stay after Mr Soames went out?
9. How long did you live in Hong Kong, Mrs Sanders?
10. How far did he go?

When it follows the auxiliary verb *do / does / did*, the main verb is in the _____ [base / present tense / past tense / -ing / past participle] form.

e.g. What does she [learn / learns / learning / learnt]?

(b) Circle the main verb in each question. What is the verb form?
The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. When was Jesus Christ born?
2. And how long were they married?
3. Why are you smiling?
4. 'Why are you sitting here when all your friends are playing?'
5. Why are you crying?
6. How was the British Empire built?
7. Where was he going?
8. Where was the cheque sent from?

When it follows the auxiliary verb 'be' (*is, am, are, was, were*), the main verb is:

(1) a _____ to form the continuous tense

e.g. *Why are you [cry / cries / crying / cried]?*

or

(2) a _____ to form the passive voice

e.g. *When were the twins [bear / bears / bore / born / bearing]?*

6. Proofreading Exercise

Collect students' questions written in Part A, and design a proofreading exercise on *wh*-questions.

Part C Oral and Writing task

(a) Do you remember the video clip about the disabled dog? Now watch another video about an abandoned dog.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYaDEyzs3T8

Answer the following questions.

1. When was the dog bought?

_____

2. How did the man treat the dog at first?

_____

3. Where did the dog sleep before the man got married?

_____

4. Why did the man abandon the dog?

_____

5. Where did he abandon the dog?

_____

6. What food did the dog eat after it was abandoned?

_____

7. What lesson have you learnt from this video?

_____

_____

8. If you were the dog, what questions would you ask your owner? Write two questions.

(a) _____

(b) _____

(b) A Perfect Match

(1) Watch a video about pet adoption.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4n5mxjgn8Y

Answer the following questions.

1. What was the first pet adopted?

_____

2. What pet did the duck take home?

_____

3. What was Gilbert the Guinea Pig worried about?

_____

4. Why did Pig Mum want to adopt a pet?

_____

5. When was Gilbert adopted? Who took Gilbert?

_____

6. Which pet do you want to take home? Why?

_____

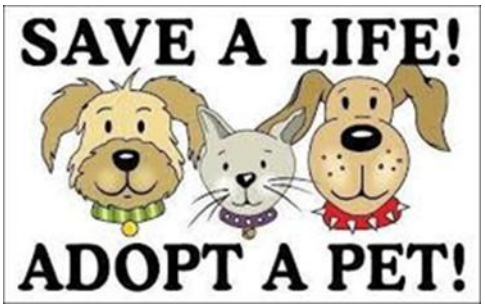
_____

(2) You are Minnie. You are going to have an interview with Chris, who wants to adopt a pet. You have to decide whether Chris is suitable to be a pet owner.
   (1) What questions will you ask Chris? Write your questions below.
   (2) Then pair up with a classmate to role play the interview. Write the dialogue.

You can ask Chris questions on the following:

- Chris's family
- the kind of pet Chris wants to adopt
- the reason for adoption
- Chris's living space
- the age of the pet
- the size of the pet, etc.





Minnie: What _____?

Chris: I would like to adopt a/an _____.

Minnie: What type _____?

Chris: I would like to have a/an _____.

Minnie: How old _____?

Chris: _____

Minnie: Where _____?

Chris: _____

Minnie: _____?

Chris: _____

Minnie: _____?

Chris: _____

Minnie: _____?

Chris: _____

Minnie: _____?

Chris: _____