Wh Questions

These are the wh-forms and we use them to make open or wh questions : what, when, where, which, who, whom, whose, why, how, they are all used to elicit particular kinds of information.

You use what when you are asking for information about something.
You use when to ask about the time that something happened or will happen.
You use where to ask questions about place or position.
You use which when you are asking for information about one of a limited number of things.
You use who or whom when you are asking about someone’s identity.
You use whose to ask about possession.
You use why to ask for a reason.
You use how to ask about the way in which something is done.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wh-form</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>+ Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>your name? My name is Lynne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>the party? The party is on Tuesday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>you from? I’m from England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>your car? The red car is mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>you? I’m Lynne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whose</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>this web site? It’s mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>this web site here? Because it is!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>you? I’m fine thanks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What, which and whose can be used with or without a noun as a question word. For example:-

What time is it? = What is the time?
Which car is yours? = Which is your car?
Whose web site is this? = Whose is this web site?

Whom can only be used to elicit information about the object of the sentence. Although using whom would be grammatically correct, we normally use who because it doesn’t sound so formal. For example:-

"Whom did you see?" would normally be expressed as "Who did you see?"
Object Questions

Object questions ask about the object of a sentence. The word order of the question must be changed and the question requires the use of an auxiliary verb (AUXILIARY-SUBJECT-VERB). For example:

I caught the train to London. Which train did you catch?

I saw a film yesterday. What did you see yesterday?

Mary usually goes to school by bus. How does Mary go to school?

Subject Questions

There are also subject questions. These are questions that we ask to find out about the subject. When **what**, **which**, **who** or **whose** refers to the subject, the verb doesn’t need an auxiliary. For example:

The train to London arrived late. Which train arrived late?
I won the race. Who won the race?