

Name _____

Date _____

English - "What, why, when, how, where, who?" – Framing Questions to Obtain Information

Reading/Discussion:

I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.
Rudyard Kipling

As Kipling says, we can use these 6 question words to find out almost everything we need to know. For example:

Mom says: Come on, we're going out.

You say: Why are we going? Where are we going? Who is coming with us? What are we going to do there? How long are we staying? When are we coming back? Mom might get a little irritated but you will have found out all about the trip!

We can also ask questions without using question words, of course, simply by turning a statement into a question. Look at the following:

The statement = The book is blue. The question = Is the book blue?

The statement = You can run fast. The question = Can you run fast?

The statement = He was late for school. The question = Was he late for school?

A lot of the things we now know about how our world works is because people asked the right questions, like: Why is the sky blue? Where do the birds go in winter? What makes the rain fall? and then worked out the answers. It is important to know what questions to ask to be sure to get the information you need.

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A: What was the question?

How clever are you at asking questions? Here is a list of answers. Can you work out what the questions were? First use question words to ask the questions, then turn the statements into questions by changing the word order.

1. He is going outside.
2. It is six o'clock.
3. They are travelling by train.
4. Jim and Jenny are going with them.
5. They are leaving this afternoon.
6. She is reading a book.

B: Interviewing

You have to write an article about Mrs Right, your teacher. While you are writing you realize that there are lots of things you don't know about Mrs Right. Write down the questions you need to ask her. Here is your article, full of blank spaces!

Mrs Right was born in ...? ... , and went to school at ...?... . She decided to be a teacher because ...? The first school she taught at was ... ? Mrs Right thinks that the nicest thing about teaching is ... ? She thinks the worst thing about teaching is ... ? She has been a teacher now for .. ? ... years. When she is not teaching she likes to ... ?

When you have worked out what questions you need to ask, why don't you interview your teacher and complete the article?

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Activity A

1. Where is he going?
 2. What is the time?
 3. How are they travelling?
 4. Who is going with them?
 5. When are they leaving?
 6. What is she doing?
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1. Is he going outside?
 2. Is it six o'clock?
 3. Are they travelling by train?
 4. Are Jim and Jenny going with them?
 5. Are they leaving this afternoon?
 6. Is she reading a book?

Activity B

Where were you born?

Where did you go to school?

Why did you decide to be a teacher?

What was the first school you taught at?

What do you think is the nicest thing about teaching?

What do you think is the worst thing about teaching?

How long have you been a teacher?

What do you like doing when you're not teaching?