

08

Subject and object questions Questions with *who*

1 Some examples of **subject questions** with **who**:

Who knows the answer to this question?
Who's that girl with George?

2 In a **subject question** with **who**, the pattern is:

who + singular verb

Who wants something to eat?
Who's/Who is going to help me?

In these questions, **Who?** is the subject. The order of words in the question is the same as in a statement:

Who won the game? = Somebody won the game. Who?

3 The answer to a **subject question** with **who** is the subject of the verb:

Who went to the concert with you? ~ Irene. (Irene went to the concert with me. 'Irene' is the subject of 'went'.)

4 Some examples of **object questions** with **who**:

Who did you meet last night?
Who have you told about this?

5 In an **object question**, the pattern is:

who + auxiliary (are, do, did, etc.) + subject + verb

Who do you live with?
Who did you phone?

In these questions, **Who?** is the object of the verb. The order of words in the question is the same as in any other question:

Who did you phone? = You phoned somebody. Who?

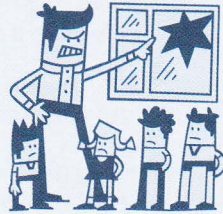
6 The answer to an **object question** with **who** is the object of the verb:

Who do you live with? ~ My parents. (= I live with my parents. 'I' is the subject of 'live' and 'my parents' is the object.)

Grammar in action

1 We use a **subject question** with **who** when we want to know which person does the action mentioned in the verb:

Who broke this window?



We use the third person (*he/she/it*) form of the verb in a subject question. The answer may be more than one person but the verb after **who** is singular. Here, a teacher is speaking to a class:

Who knows the answer to this question?

2 We use an **object question** with **who** when we are asking which person is the object of the verb. A different person is the subject of the verb and that person is not the answer to the question:

Who did Lucy marry?



A Classroom questions

Write the subject questions asked by a teacher in a classroom, using the same verb tenses as the student's answers.

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 0 | <i>Who's/Who has done the homework?</i> | ~ We've all done the homework. |
| 1 | ..... | ~ I know the answer. |
| 2 | ..... | ~ I'm going to hand out the books. |
| 3 | ..... | ~ Nobody got every answer right. |
| 4 | ..... | ~ We're all listening carefully. |
| 5 | ..... | ~ I left a pen here yesterday. |
| 6 | ..... | ~ I've finished the exercise. |



B Class gossip

One student is asking another student about the people in their class. Write the object questions using the same verb tenses as the answers.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 0 | Who did you go to the café with? | ~ I went to the café with Anna. |
| 1 | ..... | ~ Elaine is going out with Phil. |
| 2 | ..... | ~ Mark sat next to Irene on the bus. |
| 3 | ..... | ~ I like Jack the most in the class. |
| 4 | ..... | ~ I'm going to be Ruth's partner next week. |
| 5 | ..... | ~ Eric has invited most of the class to his party. |
| 6 | ..... | ~ Tom was phoning his brother in the break. |



C Soap opera stories

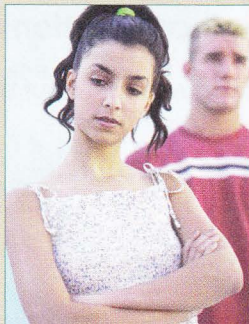
Read the summary of what has been happening in a television series and then write the correct subject and object questions about it.

TV CHOICE

CITY PEOPLE *An Update*

In last week's episodes of this popular series, a lot happened. Harry and Chris had a big argument and Harry killed Chris. Olivia saw what happened and she ran away. Now Harry is trying to find her because he wants to kill her too.

Sharon has left her husband and she is now living with her parents again. She's given up her job and she's going to start a new life in Australia. But Geoff is in love with her and he wants her to live with him.



On television, an episode is:

- A something that happens during a programme.
- B one programme in a series that shows a continuing story.
- C one of the main characters in a series.

WORD FOCUS

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 0 | Who / a big argument? | Who had a big argument? | Harry and Chris |
| 0 | Who / Harry? | Who did Harry kill? | Chris |
| 1 | Who / Chris? | ..... | Harry |
| 2 | Who / what happened? | ..... | Olivia |
| 3 | Who / Harry / to find? | ..... | Olivia |
| 4 | Who / to find Olivia? | ..... | Harry |
| 5 | Who / to kill? | ..... | Olivia |
| 6 | Who / her husband? | ..... | Sharon |
| 7 | Who / now? | ..... | Her parents |
| 8 | Who / a new life in Australia? | ..... | Sharon |
| 9 | Who / Sharon? | ..... | Geoff |
| 10 | Who / Geoff? | ..... | Sharon |

08

Subject and object questions

Questions with *what, which, and whose*

7 A **subject question** has the same form as a statement:

Who invited you to the party? ~ *Jake invited me to the party.*

An **object question** has an auxiliary in the same way as any other question:

Who did you invite to the party? ~ *I invited 10 people from college and about 20 other people.*

8 We can also ask both **subject** and **object questions** with **what, which, and whose**:

What's on TV tonight? (= Something is on TV tonight. What?)

What did you watch on TV last night? (= You watched something on TV last night. What?)

Which newspapers are the most popular? (subject)

Which newspapers do you read? (object)

Whose house is this? (subject)

Whose house did you stay in? (object)

Grammar in action

3 We use a **subject question** to ask about the subject of the verb in the question. We use an **object question** to ask about the object of the verb in the question:

Who invented the worldwide web?

The answer is the subject of 'invented': *An Englishman called Tim Berners-Lee (invented the worldwide web).*

What did an Englishman called Tim Berners-Lee invent?

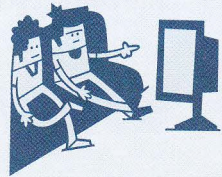
The answer is the object of 'invented': *(He invented) the worldwide web.*

4 We often use **subject questions** with **what + be** to ask for information and facts:

What's the capital of Venezuela?

5 We often use **subject questions** with **what + happen** to ask about situations and events:

What's happening in this programme? I can't follow it.



D Workplace questions

Write the questions about the place where someone works, beginning with *Who* or *What*.

- 0 *Who started the company?* ~ A man called Evans started the company.
- 0 *What does the company make?* ~ The company makes computer parts.
- 1 ~ My job title is 'Sales Executive'.
- 2 ~ Karen sits next to me in the office.
- 3 ~ I have lunch with Anna most days.
- 4 ~ Ian Butler runs the department.
- 5 ~ Something strange happened at work today.
- 6 ~ I'm working on a new product at the moment.
- 7 ~ I worked with Jane on that project.
- 8 ~ The project involved a lot of meetings.
- 9 ~ Ron and Zena applied to be the new boss.
- 10 ~ They appointed Ron as the new boss.



E Quiz questions

Write the questions for a general knowledge quiz.

0 Something happened on 20 July 1969. What?

What happened on 20 July 1969?

1 Edward Jenner discovered something. What?

2 The author JK Rowling created a very famous character. Which?

3 John Wilkes Booth shot someone in Washington in 1865. Who?

4 Something caused the Great Fire of London in 1666. What?

5 Someone won the award for Best Actor at last year's Oscars. Who?

6 One king of England had six wives. Which?

7 Someone has had more Number 1 hits in Britain than any other singer. Who?

F The painting competition

Complete the questions about a painting competition at a school.
The short answers to each question are underlined.

0 What took place last week?

A painting competition (took place last week).

1 Who

Daniel (won the painting competition).

2 Whose

Daniel's (painting won the painting competition).

3 What

(Daniel painted) a forest.

4 Which

(The teacher chose) Daniel's painting.

5 Who

(The teacher gave the first prize to) Daniel.

6 Which

Sarah's painting (came second in the competition).

7 What

(The title of my painting was) 'Summer Fields'.

8 Whose

(I liked) mine (the most, of course!)



OVER TO YOU Now go to page 123.