

# Questions

Have you voted?

[*yes-no*]

Have you voted?

[*yes-no*]

Who did you vote for?

[*wh-question*]

yes-no questions:

- commonly signalled just by intonation
- some languages have a *particle*:

Pilipino **ba** si Manny Pacquiao?      *[Tagalog]*  
‘Is Manny Pacquiao Filipino?’

**Kara** nyingki Leerdil?      *[Lardil]*  
‘Are you Lardil?’

yes-no questions:

To answer them, some languages have words for *yes* and *no*...

...but others don't:

Ar dhíol siad an teach?

Dhíol.

Níor dhíol.

‘Did they sell the house?’

‘Yes’ (= “sold”)

‘No’ (= “didn’t sell”)

*[Irish]*

## *wh-questions*

**Who** did you vote for?

**Why** did you vote for them?

**Where** did you vote?

**When** did you vote?

**What** did you eat before voting?

**How** often do you vote?

## *wh-questions*

**Who** did you vote for?

**Why** did you vote for them?

**Where** did you vote?

**When** did you vote?

**What** did you eat before voting?

**How** often do you vote?

(they can also be embedded clauses:

I don't remember **who** I voted for. )

## *wh-questions*

In English, and lots of other languages, the ‘wh-phrase’ is at the beginning of the sentence:

**Who** did you vote for?

You voted for **who**?



## *wh-questions*

But there are also languages with *wh-in-situ*:

Zhangsan mai-le sheme? [Chinese]  
Zhangsan bought what  
'What did Zhangsan buy?'

Suu ki yuu akə? [Bafut]  
Suu TNS buy what  
'What did Suu buy?'

Ya um hakiy tuwa? [Hopi]  
Q you who-ACC found  
'Who did you find?'

*pied-piping*

**Who** are you talking to?

**Whose** children are you talking to?

**Whose** children's stuffed animals are you talking to?

*pied-piping*

another point of cross-linguistic variation...

Čju on kupil mašinu ?                      [*Russian*]  
whose he bought car

[Čju mašinu] on kupil?  
whose car he bought

*pied-piping*

another point of cross-linguistic variation...

[**What**] do you think [that John bought ]?

\*[That John bought **what**] do you think?

[**Ima -ta -taj**] ya -ngui [Juan \_\_\_ randi-shka-ta]?

what ACC Q think 2 Juan buy NLZ ACC

'What do you think that Juan bought?'

[*Imbabura*

*Quechua*]

[**Ima-ta Juan randi-shka-ta-taj**] ya -ngui?

what ACC Juan buy NLZ ACC Q think 2

'[that Juan bought what] do you think?'

## *Q-particles*

Some languages have ‘Q-particles’ which attach to the entire moved phrase. Quechua examples demonstrated this, and here’s another set of examples:

*ká b<sup>w</sup>ā* ātì bí:ká dìgì: [Buli]

Q **what** C the.child cooked

'What did the child cook?'

*ká wà fōtō kūnā* ati wà nà:


Q **his picture which** C he saw

'Which picture of him did he see?'

*multiple-wh questions*

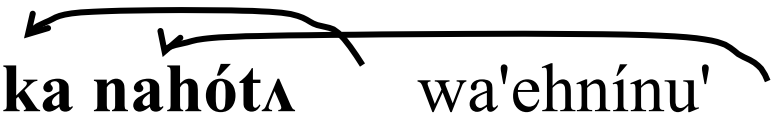
What did you give \_\_\_ to whom?

Kakvo na kogo e dal \_\_\_ \_\_\_?  
what to whom he-gave



[*Bulgarian*]

Takhróri úhka nahóta \_\_\_ wa'ehnínu' \_\_\_  
tell-me who what bought  
'Tell me who bought what.'



[*Mohawk*]

*long-distance wh-movement*

**Who** did you vote for?

**Who** do you think I should vote for?

**Who** do you think the professor will say that he voted for?

*other kinds of movement...*

This is the person [**who** I voted for]



*other kinds of movement...*

This is the person [**who** I voted for]

This is the person [(that) I voted for]

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