What is a *wh*-word? 
A word containing the *wh*-morpheme /h\w/ (English).

How we know that *wh*-questions involve movement:
- It leaves a gap.

(1)  
- a. What did Sue put on the table?  
- b. How badly did the students treat the professor?

- The position before movement counts for Binding Theory. This phenomenon is often called reconstruction:

(2)  
- a. Which picture of himself did Sue say Bill liked __ best? [BT(A)]  
- b. [*]Whose photo of Sue did she especially praise ___? [BT(C)]

- In West Ulster Irish English (McCloskey 1998), expressions like *what all*, *who all* etc. can undergo *wh*-movement and strand all in the trace position. This is very much like the Japanese numeral quantifier stranding discussed earlier:

(3)  
- a. What all did you give __ to the kids?  
- b. What did you give __ all to the kids?

(4)  
- a. Who all did you send __ to the shops?  
- b. Who did you send __ all to the shops?

(5)  
- a. Tell me what all you got __ for Christmas.  
- b. Tell me what you got __ all for Christmas.

As with Japanese numeral quantifier stranding, it is important to make sure that the all is not simply free to occur anywhere. It really does seem to stand next to the trace of the *wh*-word. It cannot occur in random places:

(6)  
- *Who did he tell __ he was going to resign all.

(7)  
- a. What did you do __ all after school the day?  
- b. *What did you do __ after school the day all?  
- c. *What did you do __ after school all the day.

Where does the *wh*-phrase move to? Where does the auxiliary verb move to in main-clause questions?
- Probably the auxiliary verb moves to C in questions like *What will Mary buy?*.
- We next observe that the *wh*-phrase is moving to what appears to be a unique position to the left of C, at the clause periphery.
- Been there, done that. This looks like German V2 (Verb-second), where we saw Topic moving to the specifier of CP and the finite verb moving to C.
- In fact, *wh*-movement in German appears to target Spec,CP just like topicalization:

(8)  
- Welches Buch hat Marie dem  Manne __ gegeben?  
- which book has Mary the-DAT man-DAT given?

- Remember:  
  Specifier: a non-modifier, non-complement position at the periphery of a maximal projection. A language may restrict the number of specifiers in a particular phrase to 1.

- So *wh*-phrase moves to specifier of CP. In English, each CP has only one specifier.

What’s the mechanism by which *wh*-phrases move to specifier of CP?
- An EPP-type property of interrogative C! A feature of C (call it C’s +wh feature) requires interrogative C to take a wh-specifier.

What’s the mechanism by which I moves to C in matrix questions?
- The C of main-clause questions has another property (we might call it a [+I] feature) which requires I to move to it as well.
- C of embedded questions does not have this feature in standard English, but does in many dialects.

(9)  
- (* Mary wanted to know [what did Bill say about her]?  
- [ok in Belfast English, African American Vernacular English, and other dialects]

In (9), the presence of *her* in the embedded clause, if coreferent with *Mary*, indicates that we are dealing with a true embedded clause — not with a quote, which would have to look like (10):
Mary wanted to know, "What did Bill say about me?"

Also in Indian English, matrix interrogative C does not necessarily have the I feature.

Indian English main-clause questions
a. What this is made from?
b. Who you have come to see?

Why does *wh*-movement take place in the complements of certain verbs like *wonder* and *ask*?

- A verb like *wonder* subcategorizes for an interrogative C with a +wh feature.
- C with this feature attracts a *wh*-phrase to it. (see above)
- If you tried to merge *wonder* with a CP in which *wh*-movement had not occoured, it would be violating either the subcategorization property of *wonder* or the requirements of this +wh feature.

Why is C null with embedded *wh*-movement? Why can’t it be pronounced?

- This seems to be a language-specific phenomenon. In modern Standard English, C must be null when its specifier is non-null. But in other languages and some dialects of English, including older stages of the language, this restriction does not hold:

  a. Ik weet niet *wie* of Jan gezien heeft.
     I know not who if John seen has  [Dutch]

  b. men shal wel knowe *who* that I am[ Middle English]

  c. Je me demande quand *que* Pierre est parti.
     I wonder when that Pierre has left  [colloquial French]

- The language-specific restriction is called the *Doubly-Filled COMP Filter*. The null variant of C is obligatory when SPEC,CP is non-null.

What's a "*wh*-phrase"?

- That is, what besides the *wh*-morpheme undergoes movement to an interrogative C?

There is cross-language variation. For example, Russian does not require pied-piping of NP:

  a. Kakaju knigu Marija kupila?
     which book Mary bought

  b. Kakaju Marija kupila ___ knigu?

Russian is more permissive that English in allowing *wh*-movement of *which*. English requires *pied piping* of the entire DP in which *which* occurs.

In other cases, English is the more permissive language. For example, English allows *stranding* of a preposition when its object undergoes *wh*-movement — but Russian does not:

  a. To whom did Mary speak?
  b. Who did Mary speak to?

The phenomenon seen in (16b) is called *preposition stranding*.

He advanced to the council-table:
And, "Please your honours," said he, "I'm able,
  'By means of a secret charm, to draw
  'All creatures living beneath the sun,
  'That creep or swim or fly or run,
  'After me so as you never saw!
  'And I chiefly use my charm
  'On creatures that do people harm,
  "The mole and toad and newt and viper;
  'And people call me the Pied Piper."
from "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" by Robert Browning
http://www.indiana.edu/~librscl/etext/piper/text.html

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