Lesson 5:  *Wh*-questions

We can use *Wh*-word (e.g. *what*, *when*, *who*, *where*, *which*, *why*, *how*) to ask questions. We put the *Wh*-word at the beginning of the question.

1. You can ask questions using a *Wh*-word + *do*/*does* + the bare infinitive of the verb.
   
   e.g. They live in Wan Chai. → *Where do* they live?  
       I usually have dinner at eight. → *When do* you usually have dinner?  
       He usually watches TV after dinner. → *What does* he usually do after dinner?

2. You can ask questions with a *Wh*-word + *am*/*are*/*is* + the bare infinitive of the verb.
   
   e.g. My name is Doris Kwan. → *What is* your name?  
       Her birthday is on 6th July. → *When is* her birthday?  
       Mary is my best friend. → *Who is* your best friend?

3. We form questions with *Wh*-words and the verb ‘to be’ in the simple present tense like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>Wh</em>-word</th>
<th>Verb to be</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>Jane and Tom?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>mine?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>the people in the park?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>you absent?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>they watching?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>lunch?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>you?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 1
*Draw a line to match each question on the left with the correct response on the right.*

1. What is your favourite fruit? • I’m thirteen years old.
2. What is the colour of your umbrella? • The boy who is wearing a white shirt.
3. When is Mid-autumn Festival this year? • I like mango and apple.
4. Why did you leave so early yesterday? • I’m going to Mongkok.
5. Where do your grandparents live? • It’s light blue.
6. How old are you? • Because I had to see doctor.
7. Which ice-cream flavour do you like? • It’s on Friday.
8. Who is your friend? • I like chocolate flavour.
9. When will you come back to Hong Kong? • They live in Canada.
10. Where are you going? • I’ll come back in September.

Exercise 2
*Johnny has found ten frequently asked questions about festivals on the festival website. He asks you to help him write the question word next to each question.*

**Top ten frequently asked questions about festivals**

1. ___________ is the most popular present for Christmas this year?
   - Computer games.
2. ___________ do people usually give sweets to children when children knock on their doors at Halloween?
   - Because people do not want children to play tricks on them.
3. ___________ is Chinese New Year this year?
   - On 26 January.
4. ___________ do people put their jack-o-lanterns at Halloween?
   - On their home’s doorstep.
5. ___________ is the other name for the Mid-Autumn Festival?
   - Moon Festival.
6. ___________ is Santa Claus’ Office?
   - In Finland.
7. ___________ gives out red packets at Chinese New Year?
   - Relatives and friends who are married.
8. ___________ do you make a jack-o-lantern?
   - Cut out the top of a pumpkin, empty its content and carve it with a knife. Then put a candle inside the pumpkin, light it and put the top back on the pumpkin.
9. ___________ do we open our Christmas presents?
   - On Boxing Day.
10. ___________ did people throw ice dumplings into a river called ‘Mi Luo’ in the past?
    - The prevent fish from eating the body of Qu Yuan.
Exercise 3

Jane is preparing for a quiz about China. Read the questions she has to prepare below. The words are in the wrong order. Put them in the correct order and write out the questions below. Begin each question with What, When, Who, Where, Which, Why or How.

e.g. when / your birthday / is / …

   When is your birthday?

1. what / the capital of China / is / …

2. where / Shanghai / is / …

3. when / National Day / is / …

4. what / your brother’s name / is / …

5. who / the Father of China / is / …

6. which / the longest river / in China / is / …

7. how / noodles / made / are / …

8. why / you / so late / are / …

9. which / your favourite cake / is / …

10. where / Tokyo / is / …

Exercise 4

Complete the dialogues below.

1. Henry: __________________________

   Tim: My favourite singer is Andy Lau.

2. Henry: __________________________

   Tim: My favourite programme is Prison Break.

3. Henry: __________________________

   Tim: I go to school by bus.

4. Henry: __________________________

   Tim: I am usually free on Saturday.
5. Henry: ________________________________________________________________________
   Tim: On Sundays, I usually play badminton with my friends.

6. Henry: ________________________________________________________________________
   Tim: I am unhappy because I fail in the exam.

7. Henry: ________________________________________________________________________
   Tim: We are going to the library now.

8. Henry: ________________________________________________________________________
   Tim: My favourite dish is fried rice.

9. Henry: ________________________________________________________________________
   Tim: My father works in Wan Chai.

10. Henry: ______________________________________________________________________
    Tim: My best friend is Angela.