

WH Questions

What are WH questions?

Questions that ask for information. They cannot be answered with a yes or a no.

These are the wh-signs you will use most often.

WHO

WHAT

WHEN

WHERE

HOW

HOW-MANY

WHY

WHAT FOR

HOW OLD

What do you do?

1

Lower your eyebrows
and squint slightly

2

Lean your head forward
toward the person you are asking

3

Hold the last sign
usually the wh-word itself

Doing all three at once tells the person you are signing to that this is a WH question. **Yes/no questions raise the eyebrows — WH questions lower them.**

Practice sentences

Who is Laurent Clerc?

fs L-A-U-R-E-N-T C-L-E-R-C WHO?

or

WHO fs L-A-U-R-E-N-T C-L-E-R-C WHO?

When is the party?

PARTY WHEN?

or

WHEN PARTY WHEN?

What's your name?

YOUR NAME WHAT?

or

WHAT YOUR NAME WHAT?

Your turn

Write three WH questions of your own in gloss, then sign them to a partner. Ask them to tell you whether your eyebrows went up or down.

ENGLISH

ASL

ENGLISH

ASL

ENGLISH

ASL