

Simple Present Information Questions

Cultural Holidays

1 Grammar in the Real World

A What is your favorite holiday or celebration? Read the interview about a Mexican holiday. What is the Day of the Dead?

B Comprehension Check Choose the correct answers.

- 1 On the Day of the Dead, people remember _____.
 - a their parents
 - b their dead relatives
 - c their children
- 2 People put pictures of the dead _____.
 - a on altars
 - b on sweets
 - c on skulls
- 3 The Day of the Dead takes place _____.
 - a every month
 - b one day a year
 - c on November 1 and 2
- 4 People _____ their ancestors' graves.
 - a decorate
 - b paint
 - c celebrate

C Notice Answer the questions with the correct question word. Use the interview to help you.

- 1 Which word asks a question about **time**? What When Where
- 2 Which word asks a question about **places**? What When Where
- 3 Which word asks a question about **things**? What When Where

What word comes after *when*, *where*, and *what*?

Coffee Time



Today's Topic:

MEXICO'S

DAY of the

DEAD

¹**ancestor:** any member of your family from long ago

²**altar:** a type of table that people use in religious ceremonies

³**grave:** a place where you bury a dead person or people, usually under the ground

⁴**skull:** the bones of the head around the brain

⁵**symbolize:** use a sign or mark to represent something

⁶**rebirth:** a new period of growth of something

Michelle Hello, everyone! This is *Coffee Time*. Our topic today is celebrations around the world. Today our guest is Elena Lopez, from a university in Mexico. She's here to tell us about the Day of the Dead. Welcome, Dr. Lopez!

5 Dr. Lopez Thank you. It's nice to be here.

Michelle First of all, **where do people celebrate the Day of the Dead?**

Dr. Lopez They celebrate it in many parts of the world, such as in Mexico.

10 Michelle **When do people celebrate it, and how do they celebrate it?**

Dr. Lopez Well, the Day of the Dead takes place on two days: November 1 and 2. We remember our dead relatives – our ancestors¹ – and friends. People build little altars² in the home and in public schools. They also clean and decorate the graves.³

15

Michelle **What do they put on these altars and graves?**

Dr. Lopez They put candles, food, drinks, flowers, and pictures of the dead. There are sweets in the shape of skulls,⁴ too. The traditions are a little different in every region of Mexico.

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Michelle **What do the different things mean?**

Dr. Lopez Well, for example, the candles are a guide for our ancestors. They guide them home. There are bells, too. They call the dead.

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Michelle **What do the skulls symbolize?⁵ Do they symbolize death?**

Dr. Lopez Well, yes. But they also symbolize rebirth,⁶ according to the first Day of the Dead thousands of years ago.

2 Simple Present Information Questions

Grammar Presentation

Information questions begin with a *Wh-* word (*Who, What, When, Where, Why, or How*). They ask for information and cannot be answered with a simple *yes* or *no*.

Where do people celebrate the Day of the Dead?
When do Americans celebrate Independence Day?

2.1 Information Questions

Wh- word	Do / Does	Subject	Base Form of Verb	
Who	do	I you we they	see	at school?
What			eat	at parties?
When			celebrate	that holiday?
What time			begin	the celebration?
Where	does	he she it	study	for school?
Why			live	at home?
How			meet	new people?

2.2 Using Simple Present Information Questions

A Use a *Wh-* word with *do* before *I, you, we, they,* and plural nouns.

When do you celebrate the holiday?

Use a *Wh-* word with *does* before *he, she, it,* and singular nouns.

Why does she study Spanish?

B Use simple present information questions to ask for specific information.

"Where do you live?" "I live in Mexico City."

"What time do you start work?" "8:30."

C Use simple present information questions to ask about habits, facts, traditions, and regular activities.

"When do they celebrate the Day of the Dead?"

"In November."

"Why does she travel to Mexico every year?"

"Because she has family there."

D You can answer information questions with a short or long answer.

"What do you eat on Thanksgiving?"

Short answer: *"Turkey and pie."*

Long answer: *"I eat turkey and pie."*

2.3 Using Wh- Words

A Use <i>Who</i> to ask about people.	" Who do you remember on the Day of the Dead?" "I remember my grandmother."
B Use <i>What</i> to ask about things.	" What do you study?" "Spanish and history."
C Use <i>When</i> to ask about time (days, months, years, seasons, parts of the day).	" When do you celebrate Chinese New Year?" "In January or February."
D Use <i>What time</i> to ask about clock time.	" What time does your class finish?" "4:30. / Five o'clock."
E Use <i>Where</i> to ask about places.	" Where does she work?" "At the University of Mexico."
F Use <i>Why</i> to ask about reasons.	" Why do you like celebrations?" "Because they're always fun."
G Use <i>How</i> to ask about manner – the way people do something.	" How do you celebrate your birthday?" "We eat at my favorite restaurant."



Grammar Application

Exercise 2.1 Questions with *Who, What, When, Where, How*

A Complete the questions with *Who, What, When, Where, or How* and *do* or *does*.

- A** Where do people celebrate the Day of the Dead?
B In Mexico.
- A** _____ they celebrate the Day of the Dead?
B On November 1 and 2.
- A** _____ they remember?
B Their dead relatives and friends.
- A** _____ they decorate?
B Graves and altars.
- A** _____ they put pictures of the dead?
B On altars.
- A** _____ they decorate the graves?
B With flowers, candles, food, and drinks.

B Over to You Unscramble the words and add *do* or *does* to make questions. Then write answers that are true for you.



1 what celebration / you / like / the best / ?

A *What celebration do you like the best?*

B _____

2 when / you / celebrate / it / ?

A _____

B _____

3 who / you / celebrate / it / with / ?

A _____

B _____

4 what / you / usually / do / ?

A _____

B _____

5 where / you / celebrate / it / ?

A _____

B _____

6 what / you / usually / eat / ?

A _____

B _____

7 when / it / usually / end / ?

A _____

B _____

C Pair Work Ask and answer the questions in B with a partner.

Exercise 2.2 Questions with *When* and *What Time*

A Complete the questions with *When* or *What time* and *do* or *does*.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 A <u>When</u> <u>do</u> you graduate? | B On June 15. |
| 2 A _____ you have the ceremony? | B At 3:30. |
| 3 A _____ Sandi turn 21? | B Next Saturday. |
| 4 A _____ her birthday party start? | B At 7:00. |
| 5 A _____ you celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States? | B At the end of November. |
| 6 A _____ your family usually have the meal? | B In the late afternoon. |
| 7 A _____ you usually start cooking on that day? | B At about 8:00 a.m. |

B Pair Work Ask and answer the questions in A with a partner.

Exercise 2.3 Asking Information Questions

A Read the paragraph about a holiday celebration in Massachusetts. Write information questions using the words in parentheses. Find the verbs in the paragraph, and use the information to write your questions. Remember to use *do* and *does* in your questions.

One of my favorite holidays is Patriots' Day in the Boston, Massachusetts, area. Every year, Boston residents celebrate Patriots' Day on the third Monday of April. On this day, people remember the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. Many towns have parades and speeches.¹ The second important event is the Boston Marathon.² The marathon happens every year on Patriots' Day. The race starts around 10:00 a.m. in Hopkinton and ends in Boston. Thousands of people watch runners from all over the world. The third event is the special Patriots' Day baseball game. The Boston Red Sox play a team from another town. The game starts around 11:00 a.m. in Boston.



¹speech: a formal talk | ²marathon: a race in which people run 26 miles and 385 yards (42.195 kilometers)

- 1 (what/people/celebrate) What do people celebrate on the third Monday of April?
- 2 (what/people/remember) _____
- 3 (what/towns/have) _____
- 4 (when/marathon/happen) _____
- 5 (what time/marathon/start) _____
- 6 (where/marathon/start) _____
- 7 (who/people/watch) _____

B Pair Work Ask and answer the questions in A with a partner.

A What do people celebrate on the third Monday of April?

B They celebrate Patriots' Day.



Exercise 2.4 Pronunciation Focus: Intonation in Questions

In information questions, our voice usually goes down. We call this falling intonation.

Where do you go on vacation?

Why do you stay home?

When do you see your relatives?

In Yes/No questions, our voice often goes up. We call this rising intonation.

Do you celebrate Memorial Day?

Is that your favorite day of the year?

Does she work at night?



A Listen to the questions and answers. Mark the questions with ↗ for rising intonation and ↘ for falling intonation.

1 **A** Excuse me. Are you from Japan? ↗

B Yes, I am. I'm from Tokyo.

2 **A** Can I ask you some questions? _____

B Sure!

3 **A** What's your favorite holiday in Japan? _____

B New Year's Day.

4 **A** Why is it your favorite? _____

B Because we have special food for the holiday, and we relax all day.

5 **A** Do you help your mother with the cooking? _____

B Yes, I do. We also see all our relatives on New Year's Day.

6 **A** Do you play any special games? _____

B No, not really. But we watch some special TV programs.

7 **A** What else do you do on New Year's Day? _____

B Well, we read all our holiday cards then.

8 **A** Do you really save all the cards to open on the same day? _____

B Yes, it's a special custom.

B Listen and repeat the questions.

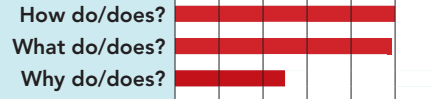
Exercise 2.5 Information Questions in Titles

Data from the Real World

We often use information questions in the titles of academic articles and books. The article or book answers the question.

Why Do We Laugh?
How Does a Computer Work?
When Do People Watch TV?

Titles with *How?* *What?* and *Why?* are very frequent.



A Read the quotations from academic articles. Choose a title for each article from the box.

Why Do People Celebrate Holidays?

What Do Teens Search for on the Internet?

How Do People Make New Friends?

Why Does a Bird Learn to Sing?

When Does a Child Become an Adult?

~~What Do Children Like to Eat?~~

Why Do We Dream?

Why Do We Grow Old?

1 What Do Children Like to Eat?

"Children prefer food that is not very hot or very strong in flavor."

5 _____

"Most searches are about movie stars, singers, and sports personalities."

2 _____

"Birds need to communicate with other birds."

6 _____

"We make friends with people we have something in common with, often at work or school."

3 _____

"We need to bring people together to remember good and bad events in our cultures."

7 _____

"We dream because our minds need to rest."

4 _____

"Our body is a machine. It works hard every day, year after year."

8 _____

"Teenagers are young adults, and the years 16 to 18 are very important."

B Over to You Do you know more about the topics in A? Tell a partner.

A lot of children don't like spicy food.

3 Questions with *How Often*

Grammar Presentation

Questions with *How often* ask about how many times something happens.

How often does she travel to Mexico?
How often do you see your family?

3.1 Questions with *How Often*

<i>How Often</i>	<i>Do/Does</i>	Subject	Base Form of Verb	
How often	do	I/you/we/they	take	a vacation?
	does	he/she/it	receive	a gift?

3.2 Using Questions with *How Often*

A Use questions with *How often* to ask how many times something happens.

How often do you run in a marathon?
How often does your family eat together?

B The answers are often frequency expressions.

All the time. Every day. Every weekend.
Every other week. Once a week. Twice a month.
Three times a month. Several times a year.
A few times a year. Once in a while. Almost never.

Grammar Application

Exercise 3.1 Questions with *How Often*

A Use the words to write questions with *How often*. Write true answers. Then ask and answer questions with a partner.

1 you / drink coffee

Question: *How often do you drink coffee?* _____

Answer: *Every day.* _____

2 you / drink soda

Question: _____

Answer: _____

3 you / eat breakfast alone

Question: _____

Answer: _____

4 your family/go out to a nice restaurant

Question: _____

Answer: _____

5 your friends/eat at a fast-food restaurant

Question: _____

Answer: _____

6 your relatives/visit your home

Question: _____

Answer: _____

B Over to You Use *How often* to write your own questions on a separate piece of paper. Use words from the box and your own ideas. Then ask your partner the questions.

board game	hiking	movie	swimming	TV
gym	library	music concert	text message	

How often do you watch TV past midnight?

4 Avoid Common Mistakes



1 In simple present information questions, use *do* or *does* before the subject.

do
Where do you work?

does
Why does he drink so much coffee?

2 Use *do* or *does*, not *is* or *are*, with the verb.

does
What time ~~is~~ the concert begin?

3 Do not use *-s* on the verb with *he/she/it* or a singular noun.

Where does Tom ~~goes~~ to school?

Editing Task

Find and correct seven more mistakes in these questions about Thanksgiving.

- do*
1 How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?
- 2 Where do you celebrates Thanksgiving?
- 3 What are you does during Thanksgiving Day?
- 4 What you watch on TV?
- 5 What time are you usually have your meal?
- 6 What you do on the Friday after Thanksgiving?
- 7 Why people celebrate Thanksgiving?