

Word Order in Questions

Word order in questions

In questions that begin with a **question word**, the verb follows the question word and is in second position. The subject follows in third position (unless the question word is the subject, as in *wer*). Anything else follows in position four.

wann - when

was - what

wer - who

wie - how

um wie viel Uhr - (at) what time

wo - where

woher - from where

wohin - to where

*welch-** - which

*We will learn more about the question word “*welch-*” in *Einheit 3.6*.

I	II	III	IV
question word	verb	subject	complement
<i>Wie</i> <i>Wie alt</i> <i>Um wie viel Uhr</i>	<i>heißt</i> <i>sind</i> <i>ist</i>	<i>du?</i> <i>Sie?</i> <i>der Deutschkurs?</i>	
<i>Was</i> <i>Was</i>	<i>machst</i> <i>ist</i>	<i>du</i> <i>Ihr Hauptfach?</i>	<i>um 11 Uhr?</i>
<i>Wo</i>	<i>wohnen</i>	<i>Sie?</i>	
<i>Wohin</i>	<i>gehst</i>	<i>du?</i>	
<i>Woher</i>	<i>kommst</i>	<i>du?</i>	
<i>Wann</i> <i>Wann</i>	<i>kommt</i> <i>hast</i>	<i>ihr</i> <i>du</i>	<i>nach Hause?</i> <i>Deutsch?</i>
<i>Wer</i> <i>Wer</i>	<i>bist</i> <i>studiert</i>	<i>du?</i> <i>Musik?</i>	
<i>Welche Kurse</i>	<i>haben</i>	<i>Sie</i>	<i>dieses Semester?</i>

In questions that ask for a **yes/no answer**, the verb is in first position, followed by the subject in second position, and anything else follows that.

I	II	III	IV
verb	subject	complement	complement
<i>Kommen</i>	<i>Sie</i>	<i>aus Deutschland?</i>	
<i>Machst</i>	<i>du</i>	<i>heute Abend</i>	<i>Hausaufgaben?</i>
<i>Heißt</i>	<i>dein Freund</i>	<i>Paul?</i>	
<i>Sprecht</i>	<i>ihr</i>	<i>Deutsch?</i>	
<i>Studierst</i>	<i>du</i>	<i>Biologie?</i>	