

“QualityTime-ESL” presents...



QT-ESL Podcast No. 48

“What” Part 2

Hi! I’m Marianne Raynaud, and I’m here to help you improve your level of spoken English. So let’s get started.

In this podcast we will continue working on the interrogative word “What”. In a previous podcast we mentioned the question on Twitter “What are you doing?” On Facebook you will find the question “What’s on your mind?” which means, “What are you thinking about?”

Listen and repeat.

What’s on your mind?
What’s he doing?
What’s she thinking?

What’s the right answer?
What’s the time?
What’s to be done?

In the first exercise I will give a few words, and you will say the question starting with “What’s...?” Listen to the examples.

*I say: ...on your mind?
You say: What’s on your mind?*

*I say: ...he doing?
You say: What’s he doing?*

Now you go on in the same way. Start each question with “What’s...?”

... on your mind?
What’s on your mind?
... he doing?
What’s he doing?
... she thinking
What’s she thinking?

... the right answer
What’s the right answer?
... the time
What’s the time?
... to be done
What’s to be done?

Next we’ll practice with an exercise similar to one we have already done. You will hear sentences followed by questions. These questions are formulated by someone who has not heard or has not understood the sentence.

So first just listen and repeat.

I’m writing a letter.
What are you doing?
I’ve been shopping.
What have you been doing?
I’m going to watch a film later.
What are you going to do later?
I plan to go to a museum tomorrow.

What do you plan to do tomorrow?
I went to a concert last night?
What did you do last night?
I was tidying my desk.
What were you doing?
I will get my tickets next week.
What will you do next week?



QT-ESL Podcast No. 48 “What” Part 2 (Cont.)

Now we will imagine you have problems hearing so you keep asking questions. Listen to the examples.

I say: I’m writing a letter.

You say: What are you doing?

I say: I’ve been shopping.

You say: What have you been doing?

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to give the question before I do.

I’m writing a letter.

What are you doing?

I’ve been shopping.

What have you been doing?

I’m going to watch a film later.

What are you going to do later?

I plan to go to a museum tomorrow.

What do you plan to do tomorrow?

I went to a concert last night?

What did you do last night?

I was tidying my desk.

What were you doing?

I will get my tickets next week.

What will you do next week?

“What” is also used in indirect questions. Notice that the part of the sentence containing the indirect question is expressed in the affirmative with the subject “I” in front of the verb. In this exercise we will again work on many different tenses. Listen and repeat.

She asked me what I like the best.

She asked me what I brought for lunch.

She asked me what I have been doing.

She asked me what I was planning to do.

She asked me what I had decided.

She asked me what I would do on vacation.

In the next drill you are going to say the indirect questions starting with “She asked me...” Listen to the examples.

I say: ... I like the best.

You say: She asked me what I like the best.

I say: ... I brought for lunch.

You say: She asked me what I brought for lunch.

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to start each sentence with “She asked me what...”

... I like the best.

She asked me what I like the best.

... I brought for lunch.

She asked me what I brought for lunch.

...I have been doing

She asked me what I have been doing.

... I was planning to do

She asked me what I was planning to do.

... I had decided

She asked me what I had decided.

... I would do on vacation.

She asked me what I would do on vacation

To finish just listen and repeat.

Now I am sure I can ask a lot of questions. If I don’t understand what people are saying, I can ask, “**What** are you doing?” “**What** have you been doing?” “**What** are you going to do later?” and “**What** did you do last night?” I can also use indirect speech in sentences like “She asked me **what** I like the best”, “She asked me **what** I brought for lunch” and “She asked me **what** I was planning to do”. I have the feeling I’m really making progress in English!

That’s the end of this podcast. For more practice, check out our other podcast series “Your English” and “5 Minute TOPs”. Bye for now and don’t forget to keep smiling!