

Spanish Question Words -- Transcript

Context

Hola y buenos días. In this lesson we're going to talk about question words. Now, we all know what question words are in English. They're the "who, what, where, when, and why" that our teachers made us memorize in back in elementary school.

And it's a good thing because question words in Spanish are similar to those we use in English. Let's go over what the question words are and review a couple of important things about them.

Information

The good news is that you're already familiar with some of these words from the Spanish you've been hearing in your class.

1. Let's start with *cómo*. It's the Spanish word for "how." This is one of the first words you probably heard in Spanish, along with the phrase *¿Cómo estás?* ("How are you?") Try repeating after me so that you'll remember it. *Repite. ¿Cómo?*
2. Now don't forget, all of the question words in Spanish have an accent. *Cómo* has an accent is on the first "o." On our next question word, *qué*, the accent is on the "e." *Qué* means "what" and I'm sure you remember hearing it in the question *¿Qué es esto?* or "What is this?" *Repite. ¿Qué? Repite. ¿Qué es esto?*
3. The next big question word in Spanish is *dónde*. *Dónde* is a really important word for people like me who always have to ask people where places are, like *¿Dónde está la fiesta?* Or, even more basic, *¿Dónde estoy?* or "Where am I?" *Ahora, repite. ¿Dónde? Repite. ¿Dónde está la fiesta?*
4. I hope you're seeing accents on all of these words because question words in Spanish always have them. Another common question word in Spanish is *cuándo*. *Cuándo* is the Spanish word for "when." An important question for many students is *¿Cuándo es la fiesta?* "When is the party?" *Repite. ¿Cuándo*
5. *Por qué* is one of my favorite question words and I drove my parents crazy with it as a kid. I always wanted to know "why?" Now, the important thing to remember about *por qué* is that it is two words. If you spell it as one word without the accent it means "because." *Repite. ¿Por qué?*
6. There are two question words that have both singular and plural forms. The first of these is *quién*. *Quién* means "who" and we use it in questions like *¿Quién es el profesor?* When you're referring to more than one person, *quién* has to be changed to *quiénes*. *¿Quiénes son las chicas?* *Repite. ¿Quién? Repite. ¿Quiénes*

son las chicas?

7. Next we have *cuál*, or “which.” *¿Cuál de los estudiantes es tu hermano?* Compare that to *¿Cuáles de los libros son del profesor?* Or “Which of the books belong to the professor?” *Ahora, repite. ¿Cuál?*
8. Finally, there’s one question Word in Spanish that has four possible forms. *Cuánto* means how much or how many and you may see it as *cuánto*, *cuánta*, *cuántos*, or *cuántas*. *Repíte. ¿Cuánto?*

Review – Things to Remember

Okay, those are the basic question words in Spanish. Listen to them all together and try to remember their meanings. *Cómo, qué, dónde, cuándo, por qué, quién, cuál, and cuánto.*

And don’t forget these important details. First, all question words in Spanish have accents! Also, two of the question words – *quién* and *cuál* – have plural forms, and one – *cuánto* – has four possible forms. Finally, don’t forget that, in Spanish, questions always begin with upside down question marks.

Well that’s all for question words. *Eso es todo. Adiós.*