

UNIT 26

Simple Past: Wh- Questions

AN ACCIDENT

OUTCOMES

- Ask and answer *wh-* questions in the simple past
- Answer questions about a reading and a conversation
- Ask and answer questions about accidents
- Ask and answer questions about a news report
- Write a conversation about what you saw on your way to school

STEP 1 GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

BEFORE YOU READ

A VOCABULARY Study the words. Then work with a partner. Practice the conversation.



a car accident



a broken headlight



a dent



a scratch



a headlight

a bumper

a tire

Conversation

A: I was in a car accident.

B: Oh, no! What happened?

A: I drove into a car. I have a broken headlight.

B Now talk about other accidents. Use the words in A or other words.

A: I was in _____.

B: Oh, no! What happened?

A: I _____. I have _____.

READ

Read Amanda's phone conversation with her brother Rob and her husband Josh.

Rob's Accident

AMANDA: Hi, Rob. What's up? ... Are you OK? ... Well, that's good. **When did it happen?** ... **Where did it happen?** ... Are you there now? ... **Why did you drive?** ... Does Dad know?



(Amanda says goodbye to Rob and talks to Josh.)

JOSH: **What happened?**

AMANDA: Rob had a car accident this morning.

JOSH: How is he?

AMANDA: He's fine, but the car isn't.

JOSH: **What happened to the car?**

AMANDA: There's a big dent in the bumper, and a headlight is broken.

JOSH: **How did the accident happen?**

AMANDA: I guess the road was slippery.¹ The car hit a sign.

JOSH: That's too bad.

AMANDA: The thing is, Rob took Dad's car because he didn't want to walk to the supermarket in the rain. But he didn't ask Dad first.

JOSH: Uh-oh.

AMANDA: Rob is at Charlie's Auto Repair Shop² now. The mechanic replaced³ the headlight and fixed the dent. He also replaced a tire and fixed some scratches on the car. Now the mechanic wants \$1,000.

JOSH: A thousand dollars? Poor Dad.

AMANDA: What do you mean, "Poor Dad?" Poor Rob.



1 *slippery*: smooth and easy to fall or have an accident on

2 *auto repair shop*: place that fixes cars

3 *replaced*: got a new thing in place of an old thing

AFTER YOU READ

A COMPREHENSION Look at the conversations again. Answer the questions.

1. When did the accident happen?
 - a. In the morning.
 - b. In the afternoon.
2. What happened to Rob in the accident?
 - a. He got hurt.
 - b. Nothing. He didn't get hurt.
3. Who was the driver?
 - a. Rob was.
 - b. Dad was.
4. How did the accident happen?
 - a. The car hit another car.
 - b. The car hit a sign.
5. Where did Rob take the car after the accident?
 - a. To his father's office.
 - b. To Charlie's Auto Repair Shop.

B Work with a partner. Compare your answers in A.

Go to [MyEnglishLab](#) for more grammar in context practice.

STEP 2 GRAMMAR PRESENTATION

SIMPLE PAST: WH- QUESTIONS

| Questions | | | | | Answers | |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--|
| Wh- Question Word | Did | Subject | Base Form of Verb | | | |
| Why | did | Rob | go | to the store? | He wanted to get some food. | |
| How long | | he | stay | at the store? | Half an hour. | |
| Who | | he | go | with? | Nobody. He was alone. | |
| Where | | the accident | happen? | | In front of the supermarket. | |
| When | | it | happen? | | In the morning. | |
| What time | | it | happen? | | At 10:00 a.m. | |
| How | | it | happen? | | The car hit a sign. | |

| Questions About the Subject | | | Answers | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| Wh- Question Word | Simple Past Verb | | | | |
| What | happened? | | Rob | had | a car accident. |
| Who | drove | the car? | Rob | (did). | |

GRAMMAR NOTES

1 Simple Past *Wh*- Questions: Form

To make most *wh*- questions in the simple past, use a *wh*- word + *did* + the subject + the base form of the verb.

A: **When did** he call?

B: In the morning.

A: **Where did** she go?

B: To the store.

A: **What did** they do?

B: They called an ambulance.

A: **Who did** you visit?

B: My mother.

USAGE NOTE We often use *wh*- question words + a noun to get more exact information.

- *What time*
- *What day*

A: **What time** did the accident happen?

B: 10:00 a.m.

A: **What day** did you go there?

B: Thursday.

2 *Wh*- Questions About the Subject

To make *wh*- questions about the subject, use a *wh*- word + the simple past form of the verb.

A: **Who called?**

B: My brother called.

A: **What happened?**

B: I had a car accident.

BE CAREFUL! Do not use *did* with questions about the subject.

Who **drove**?

NOT Who ~~did~~ drive?

REFERENCE NOTES

For definitions of grammar terms, see the Glossary on page 375.

For information on simple past *yes/no* questions, see Unit 25 on page 286.

For a list of irregular past tense verbs, see Appendix 19 on page 373.

STEP 3 **FOCUSED PRACTICE**

EXERCISE 1 DISCOVER THE GRAMMAR

A GRAMMAR NOTES 1-2 Read the conversation. Underline all the *wh-* questions in the past. Circle questions about the subject.

GINA: Why are you late? What happened?

CAMERON: There was an accident on my way here. Traffic was awful.

GINA: Oh. Where did the accident happen?

CAMERON: Just before Exit 6 on the highway.

GINA: What caused¹ the accident?

CAMERON: A box fell off² a truck, and it hit a car. The car stopped, and another car hit it.

GINA: What time did it happen?

CAMERON: About 3:30 p.m.

GINA: Did anyone call the police?

CAMERON: Yes. The police were there.

GINA: What did the police do?

CAMERON: They closed two lanes of the highway.

GINA: Did anyone get hurt?

CAMERON: No, but the cars had a lot of damage.



B Read the conversation in A again. Circle the correct answers.

1. Why did Cameron come late?

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| a. He was in an accident. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> b. He saw an accident. |
|---------------------------|---|
2. When did the accident happen?

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| a. in the morning | b. in the afternoon |
|-------------------|---------------------|
3. What did the police close?

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| a. two lanes of the highway | b. the highway |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
4. Who got hurt?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| a. one of the drivers | b. nobody |
|-----------------------|-----------|

¹ *caused*: made something happen
² *fell off*: dropped down to the ground