



**SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**  
Kurumbapalayam (Po), Coimbatore – 641 107  
**(An Autonomous Institution)**

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Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

**COURSE NAME : 23HS404 Additional Language - French**

II YEAR /III SEMESTER

Unit IV: Conversation about food and shopping

Topic 1 : Understand texts with W questions



# Main french question words + questions in French examples



What are question words?

Question words are interrogative pronouns, adverbs or adjectives which are usually placed at the start of a question. In English they are words like “who”, “where”, “why”, and “what”. In French they are words like “que”, “qui”, “pourquoi” or “combien”.



## Qui (who)

“Qui” refers to people, and means “who” or “whom”. “Qui” can, therefore, be a subject or object. Pronunciation: Ki (like “key”)

- Qui as a subject: Qui mange avec nous ce soir ? (Who’s eating with us tonight?)
- Qui as an object: Qui entendez-vous ? (Whom do you hear?)

**Bonus tip:** The word qui is also often used after the prepositions avec, pour or de.

### Example:

- Pour qui est le cadeau ? (For whom is the gift ?)
- Avec qui allons-nous au cinéma ce soir ? (Who are we going to the cinema with this evening?)
- De qui tu parles ? (Who are you talking about?)



## Que/Quoi – What?!

“Que” refers to objects (everything except people), and means “what”. It’s almost always the object of a sentence. You can pronounce “que” phonetically by “keu.”

Let’s say you’re in a French shop. You might want to ask questions like:

- Que vendez-vous ici ? (What do you sell here?)
- Que pouvez-vous me recommander ? (What can you recommend me?)

When “que” is used at the end of a question with intonation, it changes to “quoi”:

- Que voyez-vous ? -> Vous voyez quoi ? (What do you see?)

**Note:** “Que” cannot be used after a preposition; you have to use “quoi” instead:

- À quoi penses- tu?



## Où – Where?

“Où” refers to place, and means “where”. You can pronounce “où” like this: “Ooh.”

Let’s say you’re meeting a friend for a meal.

You might want to ask them:

- Où veux-tu manger ? (Where do you want to eat?)

When they mention their family that lives abroad, you might ask:

- Où est-ce qu’ils habitent ? (Where do they live?)

Say you’re at a train station, you could ask the train station staff:

- Où va ce train ? (Where is this train going?)

Or

- Où sont les toilettes, s’il vous plaît ? (Where are the toilets, please?)

**Bonus tip:** Be careful not to mix up “où”, which means where, and “ou” (without an accent), which means or.



# Quand - When?



“Quand” refers to time, and means “when”.

- Quand reviendras-tu ? (When will you be back?)
- Quand iras-tu en vacances ? (When are you going on holiday?)

Note: “Quand” is frequently expanded to “Quand est-ce que”.

- Quand est-ce qu’il va neiger ? (When will it snow?)
- Quand est-ce que votre cours commence ? (When does your class start?)



# Pourquoi (Why)



To ascertain a cause or reason, we use “pourquoi,” which means “why.”

You can pronounce “pourquoi” like this: “poor-kwah.”

- “Pourquoi a-t-il fait cela ?” (“Why did he do that?”)
- “Pourquoi portes-tu ces chaussures ?” (“Why are you wearing these shoes?”)



**THANK YOU - Merci!**