WH-Questions Worksheet

What each question word is asking for, and how to answer it.



MASTERED BY

ASHA has children asking "why" and "how", and answering simple questions, in the 2-to-3-year band

ITEMS

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Name: _____ Date: _____

WH-questions come in a developmental order that follows how abstract the answer is. "What" and "where" ask about visible, concrete things, so they come first. "Who" needs person categories. "Why" requires causal reasoning, "how" requires describing a process, and "when" requires a sense of time - which is exactly why it comes last. Every WH-word demands a particular kind of answer. Who wants a person, where wants a place, when wants a time, why wants a reason. This page is about that matching, which is a separate skill from answering the question: a child can know perfectly well that the dog is in the garden and still answer "where is the dog?" with "the dog" - because they have not worked out what the question word is asking for.

What to expect: A three-year-old asked "why did the boy cry?" may confidently answer "because" and stop, or give a "what" answer instead. That is normal. Watch for a child who answers a different question than the one asked - answering "where" when you asked "when" - which tells you the question form itself has not been sorted out yet.

What Kind of Answer?

Say what kind of thing each question is asking for.

1. Who ate the cookie?



2. Where did you put the ball?



3. When is your birthday?



4. Why are you laughing?



5. What is in the box?



6 How did you open it?



7 Who is at the door?



8 Where does the milk go?



9 Why do we wear coats?



10 When do we eat dinner?



What: One Sentence

Read the sentence, then ask the question. The answer is right there in the sentence.

11 The girl is eating an apple. What is she eating?



12 Dad is washing the car. What is Dad washing?



13 The boy put on his coat. What did the boy put on?



14 Mom is reading a book to the baby. What is Mom reading?



15 The dog chewed my shoe. What did the dog chew?



16 Grandpa is planting flowers. What is Grandpa planting?



17 The cat knocked over the lamp. What did the cat knock over?



18 Ben is drawing a rocket. What is Ben drawing?



19 We packed sandwiches for lunch. What did we pack?



20 The baby is holding a spoon. What is the baby holding?



What: Two Sentences

Read both sentences, then ask. The answer is in one of them - the other is there to hold in mind.

21 Mia went to the store with Dad. She picked out a red balloon. What did Mia pick out?



22 It was raining hard. Sam grabbed his umbrella by the door. What did Sam grab?



23 The kitchen smelled sweet. Grandma had just baked a pie. What did Grandma bake?



24 Leo was thirsty after soccer. He drank a big glass of milk. What did Leo drink?



25 The teacher passed out paper. Everyone drew a picture of their family. What did everyone draw?



26 Dad opened the mailbox. There was a letter from Aunt Rosa inside. What was in the mailbox?



27 The dog dug a hole in the yard. He buried his bone in it. What did the dog bury?



28 Nora lost a tooth at dinner. She put it under her pillow. What did Nora put under her pillow?



29 The wind blew hard. It knocked the hat right off my head. What did the wind knock off?



30 We went to the pumpkin patch. I carried home the biggest pumpkin I could find. What did I carry home?



What: Three Sentences

Read all three, then ask. The answer is not said outright: the child has to put the clues together.

31 Jay put on his helmet. He checked the tires. Then he rode down the street. What is Jay riding?



32 Mom filled the tub with warm water. She got a towel ready. The dog hid under the bed. What is the dog about to get?



33 Ella put candles on top. Everyone sang. Then she blew them out. What did Ella have?



34 Dad grabbed the ladder. He climbed up to the roof. He pulled the ball down from the gutter. What was stuck on the roof?



35 Ben mixed flour, eggs and milk. He poured it in the pan. He flipped it when it bubbled. What is Ben making?



36 Lily spread the blanket on the grass. She opened the basket. She handed out sandwiches. What is Lily having?



37 The lights went out. Dad found the flashlight. We told stories until they came back on. What happened to the power?



38 Sam shook the box. It rattled. He tore off the paper and shouted. What did Sam open?



39 Maya pulled on her boots. She stomped in every puddle on the way. Her socks were soaked by school. What kind of day was it?



40 Grandpa cast the line into the water. He waited a long time. Then the line jerked. What did Grandpa catch?



Where: One Sentence

Read the sentence, then ask the question. The answer is right there in the sentence.

41 The dog is sleeping on the rug. Where is the dog sleeping?



42 The cat is hiding under the bed. Where is the cat?



43 Mom put the milk in the fridge. Where is the milk?



44 The kids are playing at the park. Where are the kids?



45 The keys are in the drawer. Where are the keys?



46 The bird built a nest in the tree. Where is the nest?



47 We ate lunch at the table. Where did we eat lunch?



48 Dad parked the car in the garage. Where is the car?



49 The fish swims in the tank. Where does the fish swim?



50 Grandma keeps her glasses on her head. Where are Grandma's glasses?



Where: Two Sentences

Read both sentences, then ask. The answer is in one of them - the other is there to hold in mind.

51 Sam looked all over for his shoes. They were under the couch. Where were Sam's shoes?



52 We drove for a long time. Then we set up the tent by the lake. Where did we camp?



53 The baby dropped her cup. It rolled under the table. Where did the cup go?



54 Mom said to put the toys away. I put them in the toy box. Where did the toys go?



55 It was too hot inside. We ate dinner on the porch. Where did we eat dinner?



56 Dad went to buy bread. He walked to the bakery on the corner. Where did Dad go?



57 The kitten climbed too high. It got stuck up in the tree. Where was the kitten stuck?



58 Leo has a loose tooth. Mom is taking him to the dentist. Where is Leo going?



59 My hat blew away at the beach. I found it in the sand by the rocks. Where was the hat?



60 Nora hid the present. She put it on the top shelf of the closet. Where is the present?



Where: Three Sentences

Read all three, then ask. The answer is not said outright: the child has to put the clues together.

61 Mia put on her swimsuit. She grabbed a towel and goggles. Mom packed sunscreen. Where is Mia going?



62 Dad grabbed a cart. He put apples and bread in it. Then he waited in line to pay. Where is Dad?



63 Ben sat in a tall chair. A lady put a cape over him. Snip, snip went the scissors. Where is Ben?



64 Everyone lined up outside. The bell rang. We hung our backpacks on hooks. Where are we?



65 We saw lions and monkeys. We ate popcorn. Then we rode the little train past the elephants. Where did we go?



66 Sam whispered. Mom picked a book off the shelf. The librarian stamped the card. Where are they?



67 The waiter brought menus. Dad ordered spaghetti. Then we waited for our food. Where is the family?



68 Lily's tummy hurt. She lay on the paper bed. The doctor listened to her heart. Where is Lily?



69 The seats were soft and dark. The screen lit up. We shared a big popcorn. Where are we?



70 We put on boots and mittens. Dad pulled the sled. We climbed the big hill and slid down. Where did we go?



Who: One Sentence

Read the sentence, then ask the question. The answer is right there in the sentence.

71 Grandma baked the cookies. Who baked the cookies?



72 The firefighter put out the fire. Who put out the fire?



73 The doctor checked my ears. Who checked my ears?



74 My brother spilled the juice. Who spilled the juice?



75 The teacher read the story. Who read the story?



76 The mail carrier brought a package. Who brought a package?



77 Dad fixed the flat tire. Who fixed the tire?



78 The baby is crying in the crib. Who is crying?



79 The police officer helped us cross the street. Who helped us cross?



80 Mom braided my hair. Who braided my hair?



Who: Two Sentences

Read both sentences, then ask. The answer is in one of them - the other is there to hold in mind.

81 The cake was gone. Dad had crumbs on his shirt. Who ate the cake?



82 The doorbell rang. It was the mail carrier with a big box. Who was at the door?



83 Sam fell off the swing. His big sister ran over and helped him up. Who helped Sam?



84 The kitchen was a mess. Grandpa said he would clean it up. Who is cleaning the kitchen?



85 The class went on a field trip. Mrs. Lee counted everyone on the bus. Who counted the children?



86 The puppy was hungry. Nora filled his bowl. Who fed the puppy?



87 My tooth hurt. The dentist looked inside my mouth. Who looked at my tooth?



88 Our lights went out. The neighbor came over with candles. Who brought candles?



89 The baby dropped her toy. The bus driver picked it up for her. Who picked up the toy?



90 Ben lost his mitten. The crossing guard found it in the snow. Who found the mitten?



Who: Three Sentences

Read all three, then ask. The answer is not said outright: the child has to put the clues together.

91 She wears a white coat. She listens to your heart. She gives you a sticker after. Who is she?



92 He drives a big yellow bus. He knows every kid's name. He waits till you sit down. Who is he?



93 She wears a helmet and boots. She climbs a tall ladder. She sprays water on the flames. Who is she?



94 He wakes up before the sun. He milks the cows. Then he feeds the chickens. Who is he?



95 She stands at the front of the class. She reads us stories. She helps us with our letters. Who is she?



96 He carries a big bag. He walks from house to house. He puts letters in the box. Who is he?



97 She wears a tall white hat. She stirs a big pot. She brings our plates out. Who is she?



98 He has a whistle. He tells us when to get in the water. He watches everyone swim. Who is he?



99 She is very small. She sleeps in a crib. She drinks from a bottle. Who is she?



100 He has scissors and a comb. He puts a cape on you. He trims a little off the top. Who is he?



When: One Sentence

Read the sentence, then ask the question. The answer is right there in the sentence.

101 We go to school in the morning. When do we go to school?



102 We eat dinner at night. When do we eat dinner?



103 We open presents on my birthday. When do we open presents?



104 Leaves fall off the trees in the fall. When do leaves fall?



105 I brush my teeth after breakfast. When do I brush my teeth?



106 The bus comes at eight o'clock. When does the bus come?



107 We build snowmen in the winter. When do we build snowmen?



108 Grandma visits on Sundays. When does Grandma visit?



109 We wash our hands before we eat. When do we wash our hands?



110 The stars come out at night. When do the stars come out?



When: Two Sentences

Read both sentences, then ask. The answer is in one of them - the other is there to hold in mind.

111 Sam was so tired. He fell asleep right after lunch. When did Sam fall asleep?



112 The pool opens in the summer. We go almost every day. When does the pool open?



113 Dad made pancakes. We ate them on Saturday morning. When did we eat pancakes?



114 It snowed all night. In the morning the yard was white. When did it snow?



115 Mia has soccer practice. She goes every Tuesday after school. When is soccer practice?



116 The baby takes a nap. She sleeps every day after her bottle. When does the baby nap?



117 We carve pumpkins. We do it every October. When do we carve pumpkins?



118 The library has story time. It is on Wednesday mornings. When is story time?



119 First we clean up. Then we can go outside to play. When can we go outside?



120 Grandpa reads to me. He does it every night before I sleep. When does Grandpa read to me?



When: Three Sentences

Read all three, then ask. The answer is not said outright: the child has to put the clues together.

121 The sun was going down. The streetlights came on. Mom called us in for dinner. When did Mom call us in?



122 Ben put on his pajamas. He brushed his teeth. Then he picked a book. When is this happening?



123 The alarm rang. Dad opened the curtains. The sun was just coming up. When is this happening?



124 It was very hot. We ran through the sprinkler. Then we ate popsicles. When is this happening?



125 The leaves were red and orange. We raked them into a pile. Then we jumped in. When is this happening?



126 We hung up our coats. The teacher took attendance. Then we sat on the rug. When is this happening?



127 The candles were lit. We sang the song. Then Mia made a wish. When is this happening?



128 The bell rang. We grabbed our lunch boxes. Everyone ran to the tables. When is this happening?



129 The snow melted. Flowers started to pop up. The birds came back. When is this happening?



130 Dad packed the car. We drove to Grandma's house. Everyone said "Happy Thanksgiving!" When is this happening?



Why: One Sentence

Read the sentence, then ask the question. The answer is right there in the sentence.

131 She put on her raincoat. Why did she put it on?



132 The dog is barking at the door. Why is he barking?



133 He is wearing a bandage. Why is he wearing it?



134 The ice cream melted. Why did it melt?



135 She is going to the dentist. Why is she going?



136 The plant wilted. Why did it wilt?



137 He turned on the light. Why did he turn it on?



138 We wear coats in winter. Why do we wear coats?



139 The baby is crying. Why might the baby be crying?



140 Mom put a lid on the pot. Why did she put on the lid?



Why: Two Sentences

Read both sentences, then ask. The answer is in one of them - the other is there to hold in mind.

141 Sam ran all the way home. He did not want to miss his show. Why did Sam run?



142 Mia put her hands over her ears. The fire truck was very loud. Why did Mia cover her ears?



143 Dad wore his boots. The yard was muddy. Why did Dad wear boots?



144 Leo did not eat his lunch. His stomach hurt. Why did Leo skip lunch?



145 The teacher turned off the lights. It was time for a movie. Why did she turn off the lights?



146 We stayed inside all day. It was raining hard. Why did we stay inside?



147 Nora put on her helmet. She was going to ride her bike. Why did Nora put on a helmet?



148 The cat ran under the bed. There was a loud clap of thunder. Why did the cat hide?



149 Ben whispered in the library. Everyone was reading. Why did Ben whisper?



150 Grandma opened the window. The kitchen was hot from the oven. Why did Grandma open the window?



Why: Three Sentences

Read all three, then ask. The answer is not said outright: the child has to put the clues together.

151 Ella's plate is empty. She is rubbing her tummy. She has a big smile. Why is Ella smiling?



152 The puppy tipped over the trash. Dad found him chewing a banana peel. Dad said "no." Why did Dad say no?



153 Sam left his bike in the rain. Now it is orange and rough. It squeaks when he rides. Why does the bike squeak?



154 The baby reached for the stove. Mom grabbed her hand fast. Then Mom moved the baby away. Why did Mom grab her hand?



155 Leo forgot his coat at school. It was snowing. He shivered all the way home. Why was Leo cold?



156 The sign said "wet paint." Mia sat on the bench anyway. Now her pants are green. Why are Mia's pants green?



157 Ben stayed up late. He yawned all through breakfast. His eyes kept closing at school. Why was Ben so sleepy?



158 The flowers were droopy. Grandpa gave them water. By morning they stood up straight. Why were the flowers droopy?



159 Nora ate a whole bag of candy. Later her tummy hurt. She did not want dinner. Why did Nora's tummy hurt?



160 The dog waited by the door. He whined and scratched. Then he ran outside to the yard. Why was the dog whining?



How: One Sentence

Read the sentence, then ask the question. The answer is right there in the sentence.

161 You brush your teeth with a toothbrush. How do you brush your teeth?



162 She got to school on the bus. How did she get to school?



163 He fixed the shelf with a hammer. How did he fix it?



164 You make toast in the toaster. How do you make toast?



165 We cut the paper with scissors. How do we cut paper?



166 The bird flew to its nest. How did the bird get to the nest?



167 Dad stirred the soup with a spoon. How did Dad stir the soup?



168 Mom dried my hair with a towel. How did Mom dry my hair?



169 We crossed the river on a bridge. How did we cross the river?



170 He opened the can with a can opener. How did he open the can?



How: Two Sentences

Read both sentences, then ask. The answer is in one of them - the other is there to hold in mind.

171 Sam wanted to reach the cookies. He climbed up on a chair. How did Sam reach the cookies?



172 Mia lost her tooth. It came out when she bit into an apple. How did Mia lose her tooth?



173 The baby cannot walk yet. She crawls across the floor. How does the baby get around?



174 It was dark in the tent. We used a flashlight to see. How did we see in the tent?



175 Grandma cannot hear well. She reads my lips when I talk. How does Grandma know what I say?



176 Dad cracked the eggs. Then he beat them with a fork. How did Dad beat the eggs?



177 The gate was locked. Leo climbed over the fence. How did Leo get in?



178 The kitten was up in the tree. Dad got a ladder to reach it. How did Dad get the kitten down?



179 Nora wanted to make her drawing bigger. She used the copy machine. How did Nora make it bigger?



180 My hands were freezing. I pulled on my mittens. How did I warm my hands?



How: Three Sentences

Read all three, then ask. The answer is not said outright: the child has to put the clues together.

181 Ben tripped on the step. He scraped his knee. Big tears rolled down his face. How does Ben feel?



182 Mia opened the box. Inside was the puppy she had wished for. She jumped up and down. How does Mia feel?



183 The dog ran through the sprinkler. Then he rolled in the mud. Then he shook all over Mom. How does the dog look now?



184 Sam studied his spelling words. He practiced every night. He got every word right. How did Sam do so well?



185 Leo dropped his ice cream. His face got red. He stomped his foot. How does Leo feel?



186 The snow was deep. The car would not move. Dad got out the shovel. How did Dad get the car out?



187 Nora heard a noise in the dark. She pulled the blanket over her head. Her heart was pounding. How does Nora feel?



188 The baby could not reach the toy. She rolled onto her tummy. Then she wiggled forward. How did the baby get the toy?



189 It was Ben's first day. He did not know anyone. He held Mom's hand tight. How does Ben feel?



190 Mia wanted to send Grandma a picture. She drew it. Then Mom took a photo and sent it. How did Grandma get the picture?



Story: The Lost Kitten

Read the story once. Then ask the questions one at a time - the story stays on screen.

On Saturday morning, Nora heard a small sound coming from under the porch. She knelt down and saw a gray kitten with one white paw, curled up against the cold. Nora ran inside for a towel and a bowl of milk. The kitten was too frightened to come out at first, so Nora sat very still and waited nearly an hour. By lunchtime the kitten was asleep in her lap, and her mother had already agreed they could keep it if nobody claimed it.

191 Who found the kitten?

192 Where was the kitten hiding?

193 What did Nora bring outside?

194 Why did Nora sit very still?

195 When did this happen?

196 How did Nora know where the kitten was?

Story: The Science Fair

Read the story once. Then ask the questions one at a time - the story stays on screen.

Marcus had two weeks to build his project, but he spent the first week deciding what to do. Finally he chose to test which paper towel soaked up the most water. He bought three brands, poured the same amount of water into three dishes, and timed how long each towel took. The cheapest brand did the best, which surprised everybody including Marcus. He came in second at the fair, behind a girl who had grown crystals in a jar.

197 What was Marcus testing?

198 How many brands did he test?

199 Why was everyone surprised?

200 What place did Marcus get at the fair?

201 What did the winner do for her project?

202 Why did Marcus nearly run out of time?

Story: The Storm

Read the story once. Then ask the questions one at a time - the story stays on screen.

The wind started in the afternoon and by dinner the power was out. Dad found the camping lantern in the garage and they ate cold sandwiches around the kitchen table. Jonah thought it was the best dinner he had ever had. His little sister did not agree and cried until Dad let her hold the lantern. The lights came back on just before bedtime, and the first thing everyone heard was the television, still on from hours before.

203 When did the power go out?

204 What did they eat?

205 Where did Dad find the lantern?

206 Why was Jonah's sister upset?

207 How did Dad help her?

208 Why did they hear the television?

Story: The New Bus Driver

Read the story once. Then ask the questions one at a time - the story stays on screen.

For three years the bus had been driven by Mr. Okafor, who knew every child by name and kept a jar of stickers by his seat. When he retired in October, a new driver named Ms. Patel took over. Nobody liked her at first because she would not let anyone stand up while the bus was moving. By December, though, she had learned all the names too, and there was a new jar by the seat with dinosaur stickers in it.

209 Who drove the bus before?

210 When did Mr. Okafor retire?

211 Why did nobody like Ms. Patel at first?

212 What did she do by December?

213 Why do you think she made that rule?

Story: The Library Card

Read the story once. Then ask the questions one at a time - the story stays on screen.

Amira had wanted her own library card since she was five, but the rule was that you had to be able to write your whole name. She practiced on the back of receipts all summer. In August she walked to the library with her grandfather, wrote A-M-I-R-A B-E-G-U-M on the form, and the librarian slid a card across the counter. Amira checked out six books, which was the limit, and carried them home in both arms.

214 What did Amira want?

215 What was the rule?

216 How did she practice?

217 Who went with her to the library?

218 How many books did she take?

219 Why did she carry them in both arms?

Answer Key

What Kind of Answer?

1. a person
2. a place
3. a time
4. a reason
5. a thing
6. a way of doing it
7. a person
8. a place
9. a reason
10. a time

What: One Sentence

11. An apple
12. The car
13. His coat
14. A book
15. My shoe
16. Flowers
17. The lamp
18. A rocket
19. Sandwiches
20. A spoon

What: Two Sentences

21. A red balloon
22. His umbrella
23. A pie
24. A glass of milk
25. A picture of their family
26. A letter
27. His bone
28. Her tooth
29. My hat
30. A pumpkin

What: Three Sentences

31. A bike
32. A bath
33. A birthday cake
34. A ball
35. Pancakes
36. A picnic
37. It went out
38. A present
39. A rainy day
40. A fish

Where: One Sentence

41. On the rug
42. Under the bed
43. In the fridge
44. At the park
45. In the drawer
46. In the tree
47. At the table
48. In the garage
49. In the tank
50. On her head

Where: Two Sentences

51. Under the couch
52. By the lake

53. Under the table
54. In the toy box
55. On the porch
56. To the bakery
57. In the tree
58. To the dentist
59. In the sand
60. In the closet

Where: Three Sentences

61. To the pool
62. At the store
63. At the barber shop
64. At school
65. To the zoo
66. At the library
67. At a restaurant
68. At the doctor
69. At the movies
70. To the sledding hill

Who: One Sentence

71. Grandma
72. The firefighter
73. The doctor
74. My brother
75. The teacher
76. The mail carrier
77. Dad
78. The baby
79. The police officer
80. Mom

Who: Two Sentences

81. Dad
82. The mail carrier
83. His big sister
84. Grandpa
85. Mrs. Lee
86. Nora
87. The dentist
88. The neighbor
89. The bus driver
90. The crossing guard

Who: Three Sentences

91. A doctor
92. A bus driver
93. A firefighter
94. A farmer
95. A teacher
96. A mail carrier
97. A chef
98. A lifeguard
99. A baby
100. A barber

When: One Sentence

101. In the morning
102. At night
103. On my birthday
104. In the fall
105. After breakfast
106. At eight o'clock
107. In the winter
108. On Sundays
109. Before we eat
110. At night

When: Two Sentences

111. After lunch
112. In the summer
113. Saturday morning
114. At night
115. Tuesday after school
116. After her bottle
117. In October
118. Wednesday mornings
119. After we clean up
120. Before I sleep

When: Three Sentences

121. In the evening
122. At bedtime
123. In the morning
124. In the summer
125. In the fall
126. At the start of school
127. On Mia's birthday
128. At lunchtime
129. In the spring
130. On Thanksgiving

Why: One Sentence

131. Because it is raining
132. Because someone is at the door
133. Because he got a cut
134. Because it was hot
135. To get her teeth checked
136. Because nobody watered it
137. Because it was dark
138. Because it is cold
139. Because she is hungry or tired
140. To keep it hot

Why: Two Sentences

141. So he would not miss his show
142. Because the truck was loud
143. Because the yard was muddy
144. Because his stomach hurt
145. To watch a movie
146. Because it was raining
147. To ride her bike safely
148. Because of the thunder
149. Because people were reading
150. To let the heat out

Why: Three Sentences

151. Because she is full and happy
152. Because the puppy got in the trash
153. Because it got rusty
154. Because the stove is hot
155. Because he had no coat
156. Because she sat on wet paint
157. Because he stayed up late
158. Because they needed water
159. Because she ate too much candy
160. Because he needed to go out

How: One Sentence

161. With a toothbrush
162. On the bus
163. With a hammer
164. In the toaster
165. With scissors
166. It flew
167. With a spoon
168. With a towel

169. On a bridge
170. With a can opener

How: Two Sentences

171. He climbed on a chair
172. She bit an apple
173. She crawls
174. With a flashlight
175. She reads my lips
176. With a fork
177. He climbed the fence
178. With a ladder
179. With the copy machine
180. With mittens

How: Three Sentences

181. Hurt and sad
182. Very happy
183. Wet and muddy
184. He practiced
185. Angry
186. He shoveled the snow
187. Scared
188. She wiggled to it
189. Nervous
190. Mom sent a photo

Story: The Lost Kitten

191. Nora
192. Under the porch
193. A towel and a bowl of milk
194. Because the kitten was too frightened to come out
195. On Saturday morning
196. She heard a small sound

Story: The Science Fair

197. Which paper towel soaked up the most water
198. Three
199. Because the cheapest brand did the best
200. Second
201. She grew crystals in a jar
202. He spent the first week deciding what to do

Story: The Storm

203. By dinner
204. Cold sandwiches
205. In the garage
206. She did not like the dark or the cold dinner
207. He let her hold the lantern
208. It had been left on before the power went out

Story: The New Bus Driver

209. Mr. Okafor
210. In October
211. She would not let anyone stand while the bus was moving
212. She learned everyone's names and brought a sticker jar
213. To keep the children safe

Story: The Library Card

214. Her own library card
215. She had to be able to write her whole name
216. On the back of receipts
217. Her grandfather
218. Six
219. Because six books were heavy