

Grammar

3.2 Question Word: 什麼

The question word 什麼 can appear in both subject position and object position. It can also appear before a noun to ask for "what kind".

- * 什麼地方? (shen2 me di4 fang1?) Where?
- * 什麼時候? (shen2 me shi2 hou4?) When?
- * 什麼人? (shen2 me ren2?) Who?
- * 什麼樣的? (shen2 me yang4 de?) What kind?

Examples :

- * Q: 你學什麼課? (ni3 xue2 shen2 me ke4?) What courses are you taking?
- * A: 我學中文課。(wo3 xue2 zhonglwen2 ke4.) I am taking Chinese class.

- * Q: 堅尼街在什麼地方? (jian1 ni2 jiel zai4 shen2 me di4 fang1?)
Where is Canal Street?
- * A: 堅尼街在中國城。(jian1 ni2 jiel zai4 zhonglguo2 cheng2.)
Canal Street is in Chinatown.

- * Q: 你喜歡看什麼書? (ni3 xi3 huan1 kan4 shen2 me shu1?)
What kind of books would you like to read?
- * A: 我喜歡中國故事。(wo3 xi3 huan1 zhonglguo2 gu4 shi4.) I like Chinese stories.

- * Q: 這是什麼? (zhe4 shi4 shen2 me?) What is this?
- * A: 這是一個手機。(zhe4 shi4 yi2 ge shou3 jil.) This is a cell phone.

- * Q: 紐約是個什麼樣的地方? (niu3yue1 shi4 ge shen2 me yang4 de di4 fang1?)
What kind of place is NY?
- * A: 紐約是個好地方。(niu3yue1 shi4 ge hao3 di4 fang1.) New York is a good place.

- * Q: 他什麼時候學中文? (ta1 shen2 me shi2 hou4 xue2 zhonglwen2?)
When did he study Chinese?
- * A: 他今天早上學中文。(ta1 jin1 tian1 zao3 shang4 xue2 zhonglwen2.)
This morning he studied Chinese.

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(World's renowned investor; Author of "Adventure Capitalist", "Hot Commodities" & "A Bull in China")

來學中文

lai² xue² zhong¹ wen²

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