

SCENE 6 • GRAMMAR

what, where, how

Names, places and useful questions

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The empty flat

English

Read & listen online 

Names, places and useful questions

Use **what** for a thing or a name, **where** for a place and **how** for a manner: **What's your surname?, Where are you from?, How do you spell it?** Place **be** before the subject in its questions.

Use **from** for your origin: **I'm from Hamburg, I'm from Germany.** Countries and ordinary personal names usually have no article; an important country-name exception here is **the United Kingdom.**

Language names use capital letters: **English, German.** Say **I speak English,** not a language article phrase. **How do you spell it?** is a useful question chunk; productive **do** questions follow shortly.

Form	Example	Meaning
What	What is your surname?	Ask for a surname.
are	Where are you from?	Ask where the listener comes from.
from	I'm from Germany.	State your country of origin.
How	How do you spell Becker?	Ask how to spell a surname.
English	I speak English.	State the language used in this course.
the	Anne lives in the United Kingdom.	Use the conventional article in the country name.

What is your surname?

Ask for a surname.

Where are you from?

Ask where the listener comes from.

I'm from Germany.

State your country of origin.

How do you spell Becker?

Ask how to spell a surname.

I speak English.

State the language used in this course.

Anne lives in the United Kingdom.

Use the conventional article in the country name.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS

Underline the form described in this unit.

1 What is your surname?

Meaning: Ask for a surname.

2 Where are you from?

Meaning: Ask where the listener comes from.

3 I'm from Germany.

Meaning: State your country of origin.

4 How do you spell Becker?

Meaning: Ask how to spell a surname.

5 I speak English.

Meaning: State the language used in this course.

6 Anne lives in the United Kingdom.

Meaning: Use the conventional article in the country name.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 _____ is your surname?

- ☐ A What
- ☐ B Where
- ☐ C Who

Meaning: Ask for a surname.

2 Where _____ you from?

- ☐ A am
- ☐ B is
- ☐ C are

Meaning: Ask where the listener comes from.

3 I'm _____ Germany.

- ☐ A to
- ☐ B from
- ☐ C at

Meaning: State your country of origin.

4 _____ do you spell Becker?

- ☐ A Where
- ☐ B How
- ☐ C Who

Meaning: Ask how to spell a surname.

5 I speak _____.

- ☐ A England
- ☐ B British
- ☐ C English

Meaning: State the language used in this course.

6 Anne lives in _____ United Kingdom.

- ☐ A a
- ☐ B an
- ☐ C the

Meaning: Use the conventional article in the country name.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

What Where

_____ is your surname?

Meaning: Ask for a surname.

are is

Where _____ you from?

Meaning: Ask where the listener comes from.

from at

I'm _____ Germany.

Meaning: State your country of origin.

How Who

_____ do you spell Becker?

Meaning: Ask how to spell a surname.

English England

I speak _____.

Meaning: State the language used in this course.

the a

Anne lives in _____ United Kingdom.

Meaning: Use the conventional article in the country name.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

- 1 is What surname? your

Meaning: Ask for a surname.

- 2 from? Where you are

Meaning: Ask where the listener comes from.

- 3 from Germany. I'm

Meaning: State your country of origin.

- 4 you Becker? How do spell

Meaning: Ask how to spell a surname.

- 5 English. speak I

Meaning: State the language used in this course.

- 6 United Kingdom. lives the Anne in

Meaning: Use the conventional article in the country name.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Ask for a surname. You say:

- (A) What is your surname?
- (B) Where is your surname?

2 Ask where the listener comes from. You say:

- (A) Where are you from?
- (B) Where is you from?

3 State your country of origin. You say:

- Ⓐ I'm from Germany.
- Ⓑ I'm at Germany.

4 Ask how to spell a surname. You say:

- Ⓐ How do you spell Becker?
- Ⓑ Who do you spell Becker?

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ① I speak English. | Ⓐ Use the conventional article in the country name. |
| ② What is your surname? | Ⓑ State your country of origin. |
| ③ I'm from Germany. | Ⓒ Ask for a surname. |
| ④ Anne lives in the United Kingdom. | Ⓓ State the language used in this course. |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ⑤ How do you spell
Becker? | ⑤ Ask where the listener comes
from. |
| ⑥ Where are you
from? | ⑥ Ask how to spell a surname. |