

What and which ☆☆☆

(☆☆ = Basic ☆☆☆ = Intermediate ☆☆☆☆ = Advanced)

Grammar Bite

(read through this)

Sometimes people confuse **what** and **which**:

What

We use **what** to mean 'the thing which':

I don't know what this man wants

(I don't know 'the thing which' this man wants)

I understand what you're saying

(I understand 'the thing which' you're saying)

Which

We use **which** in two ways (here):

I don't know this man, which is a pity.

Which refers back to the whole sentence

I remember the book, which was very good.

Which refers back to the word

One thing which makes this easy is the comma: there's always a comma before **which** in the examples above.

However, don't get too confident! We've included in the worksheet several examples of **which** and **what** in different usages, like these:

I'm not sure which colour you prefer.

Have you decided which way to go?

and...

Do you know what time it is?

I wonder what he'll do when he gets here.

Worksheet

(do this)

Fill each blank with one of the words given (notice the comma before the second "which"):

what which , which

- 1 I don't know _____ she's doing today.
- 2 I don't like _____ he said.
- 3 He gave me a present _____ was nice of him.
- 4 I haven't been able to find out _____ they want.
- 5 I don't know _____ book to choose, I like them both.

what which

- 6 I wonder _____ the weather is going to do.
- 7 You answered the question well _____ was helpful.
- 8 I don't think we know _____ the answer is to this question.
- 9 I'm not sure _____ of these names to choose.
- 10 I talked to Johann for half an hour _____ was useful.

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