

Different kinds of how questions simplest responses games

Listen to your teacher say some “How...?” questions and raise one of the two cards you have depending on which meaning you think each question has. If you are not sure, think about whether the basic answer will probably be “Absolutely/ Very/ So/ Not so...”, e.g. “Absolutely fabulous” or “Not so good”, or if it will be something meaning “By...”, e.g. “(By) push(ing) this button” or “Using a train”.

Label the sections below with “R” for “ranking” (answered by “extremely...”, “slightly...”, etc) or “W” for “(in what) way”. Ones in the same section are of the same kind.

- How are you?
- How's it going?/ How are things?/ How's life?/ How are you doing?

- How can I change the temperature?
- How do I switch this off?
- How is this controlled?

- How was your (long/ three-day) weekend?
- How has your week/ day/ trip/ visit/ stay been (so far)?
- How have you been (since we last met)?

- How's work?
- How's business?

- How did you solve it?
- How can I improve...?

- How was your (summer/ Xmas/ New Year/ Easter/ bank) holiday/ vacation?
- How was your flight?

- How did you get here today?
- How did you travel?

- How was your journey?
- How was your trip?

- How can I get to...?
- How can I get from London to Manchester without spending too much?

- How's the weather (there) in... (now)?
- How's... going? (e.g. How's your project going?)

- You said that you were going to... How was it?/ How did it go?
- I heard that you... How was it?/ How was the weather?/ How did you get on?/ How...?

- How are you getting on with...?
- How was your evening?

- How's your hotel?
- How's the weather outside now?

- How's John?
- How's your family?

- How do you know Sally?
- How did you know?
- How did you guess?

- How was your lunch?
- How's your meal?/ How's the steak?/ How's the...?

- How was the traffic (coming from.../ this morning/ on... road)?
- How was England?

- How are you coping with...?
- How's your leg (recovering)?
- How's your cold?

- How did you break your leg?
- How did you lose it?

- How did... go?
- How did you get on with...?

- How are you planning to...?
- How should I respond?

Suggested answers

The ones in **bold** below are “(in what) way” questions.

- How are you?
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- **How is this controlled?**

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- **How did you solve it?**
- **How can I improve...?**

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- You said that you were going to... How was it?/ How did it go?
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- How are you getting on with...?
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- How's John?
- How's your family?

- **How do you know Sally?**
- **How did you know?**
- **How did you guess?**

- How was your lunch?
- How's your meal?/ How's the steak?/ How's the...?

- How was the traffic (coming from.../ this morning/ on... road)?
- How was England?

- How are you coping with...?
- How's your leg (recovering)?
- How's your cold?

- **How did you break your leg?**
- **How did you lose it?**

- How did... go?
- How did you get on with...?

- **How are you planning to...?**
- **How should I respond?**

Ask about anything you don't understand, are not sure how to answer, etc.

Test each other in pairs:

- Play the same holding up cards game
- Read out a ranking phrase and a (in what) way phrase and see if your partner can say which is which
- Choose one of the two categories and help your partner make suitable questions

Cards to hold up

Good or bad/ Ranking	(In what) way
Good or bad/ Ranking	(In what) way
Good or bad/ Ranking	(In what) way
Good or bad/ Ranking	(In what) way
Good or bad/ Ranking	(In what) way