Noun clauses which begin with a question word* are also called **Embedded Questions**

- Where *does she live*?
- I don’t know *where she lives*.
- Which road *should I take*?
- I wonder which road *I should take*.

*Question words: who, what, where, when, how, how many, why, which, whom.*
How to form a noun clause

(Study the following examples:)

• What did he say?
• When do they arrive?

► I couldn’t hear what he said.
► Do you know when they arrive?

Does, did, and do are used in questions but not in noun clauses.

The noun clause comes after the main verb in the sentence. (hear, know)

Do not use question word order in a noun clause. Use question word-plus-subject-plus-verb order and keep the same tense (past and present in the examples above).

Look what happens to the word order above in blue.
When the question word is the subject

- **Who lives there?**
  I don’t know *who lives there*.
- **What happened?**
  Please tell me *what happened*.

In the first example, the word order is the same in both the question and noun clause because *who* is the subject of both.
Noun clauses as subject

- What did she say? • *What she said* surprised me.
- What should they do? • *What they should do* is obvious.

*Notice:* A noun clause subject takes a singular verb. (is)
Practice

- Who is she? I don’t know __________.
- Who are those men? I don’t know ________.
- Whose house is that? I wonder __________.
- How old is he? I don’t know __________.
- What was he talking about?
  ___________________________ was interesting.