

ASK WHAT SOMETHING IS CALLED IN ENGLISH

When you are learning a new language, you will see or touch things you don't know how to say. Maybe it's something common, like a "ruler" or a "keychain", or something you've never seen before. And you'll want to ask someone: **"How do you say this in English?"** or **"What is this called?"**

These kinds of questions are essential. They show curiosity and help you learn. They also make conversations more active. When you don't know a word, don't be afraid. Just ask – and that's what this lesson is about: asking questions to discover the name of something in English.

How to Ask the Right Question

Let's imagine you are in a classroom, and you see an object on the teacher's desk. You don't know what it's called in English. You can pick it up or point to it and say:

"What is this called in English?"

"How do you say this in English?"

"What do you call this?"



All these questions are polite, natural, and simple. They invite the other person to help you and teach you. You don't need to explain much – just use your finger to point, smile, and ask.

For example, imagine you're holding a stapler and you ask:

"What is this called in English?"

The other person might answer: "It's a stapler."

You just learned a new word – and you used English to do it. That's a success!

Using the Answer in Conversation

Once someone gives you the name of the object, you can try repeating it. That helps you remember the word. For example:

– “It’s a calculator.”

– “Oh! A calculator. Thanks!”

It may seem like a small exchange, but it’s how real learning happens – through short, simple, useful moments.

This also gives you the chance to practice pronunciation. Don’t worry about saying it perfectly. The most important thing is that you try.

Real Conversation Example

Student: Excuse me, what do you call this in English?

Teacher: That’s a sharpener.

Student: Oh! A sharpener. Thank you.

Teacher: You’re welcome!

Notice how natural and polite that sounds. This is the kind of small but important interaction you will have often when learning English.

Tip: Repeat the Word Out Loud

After someone gives you the name of the object, say it out loud. Repeating the word right away helps your brain connect it to the object. If you just nod and say “okay”, you may forget. But if you say: “Ah, a hole punch!”, you’re more likely to remember it.

Reference:

Editorial from Cambridge Dictionary. (s.f.) Explore the English Grammar. Cambridge Dictionary. Recovered from: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/>

