

Libyan

Some remarks for a start:

- I'm working with the assumption that tense (or TAM) does not play a role in the basic interrogative paradigm, although it could of course (grammatical interactions between interrogativity and the TAM area have been attested). If it matters, let me know please.
- In the 'who'/'what' area I'm asking for these elements in different grammatical positions. It could well be that nothing interesting is going there (or at least not in questions, though quite possible in relatives). If that's the case, we can work with, say, just the object function, and disregard the other ones.

Wh-questions

Who

Who arrived? (subject of intransitive/unaccusative predicate)

Who invited Youssef? (subject of transitive predicate)

Who did Youssef invite? (object)

About whom did Youssef talk? (prepositional object or adjunct)

What

What happened?

What annoyed Youssef? (subject of transitive)

What did Youssef eat? (object)

What did Youssef talk about? (prepositional object or adjunct)

Where

Where does Youssef live? (locative)

Where does Youssef go? (directional)

When

When did Youssef wake up?

Unconditionals

Some remarks:

- Cross-linguistically, unconditionals are often, though not always (Chinese, Turkish), built with so called ever wh-words (whoever). It would be good to know if Libyan uses an ever element here and if it does, then if obligatorily or only preferentially. Also, I'd appreciate a comment on what the ever element is in Libyan- does it have transparent meaning? Is it used elsewhere in the Libyan grammar?
- Unconditionals can be very similar - sometimes nearly indistinguishable - from correlatives. The two differ in one important respect, however - while unconditionals do not require the wh-word to be anaphorically picked up in the consequent, correlatives do. So we get a contrast like Who(ever) called, I slept (only unconditional) vs. **Who**(ever) called, I didn't want to speak to **him** / **that (person)** I didn't want to speak to. (could be unconditional or correlative, depending on the language, the particular properties of the construction, etc.).
- There'll be an extra section on correlatives below.

Who

If there's no interesting difference between the 4 types below, just give me the object; also, you can change the lexical material, if "keep on working" is not working well, you can choose something else. What's important, however, is that **the consequent doesn't involve reference back to the wh-word**, as in *Whoever arrived, we'll greet him*. This is of course possible (in English), but in other languages, such structures may then be difficult, if possible at all, to tell apart from correlatives (see below).

Whoever arrived, Fatima kept on working. (subject of intransitive/unaccusative predicate)

Whoever arrives, Fatima keeps on working.

Whoever will arrive, Fatima will keep on working.

Whoever ate the kus kus, Fatima kept on working. (subject of intransitive/unaccusative predicate)

Whoever is eating the kus kus, Fatima keeps on working.

Whoever will eat the kus kus, Fatima will keep on working.

Whoever invited Youssef, Fatima kept on working. (subject of transitive predicate)

Whoever invites Youssef, Fatima keeps on working.

Whoever will invite Youssef, Fatima will keep on working.

Whoever Youssef invited, Fatima kept on working. (object)

Whoever Youssef invites, Fatima keeps on working.

Whoever Youssef will invite, Fatima will keep on working.

Whoever Youssef talked about, Fatima kept on working. (prepositional object or adjunct)

Whoever Youssef talks about, Fatima keeps on working

Whoever will Youssef talk about, Fatima will keep on working

What

[The same remarks apply here as above with 'who'.](#)

Whatever arrived, Fatima kept on working (subject of intransitive)

Whatever arrives, Fatima keeps on working

Whatever will arrive, Fatime will keep on working

Whatever annoyed Youssef, Fatima kept on working. (subject of transitive)

Whatever is annoying Youssef, Fatima keeps on working.

Whatever will annoy Youssef, Fatima will keep on working.

Whatever Youssef ate, Fatima kept on working. (object)

Whatever Youssef eats, Fatima keeps on working.

Whatever Youssef will eat, Fatima will keep on working.

Whatever Youssef talked about, Fatima kept on working. (prepositional object or adjunct)

Whatever Youssef talks about, Fatima keeps on working.

Whatever Youssef will talk about, Fatima will keep on working.

Where

Wherever Youssef lived, Fatima stayed in Berlin. (locative)

Wherever Youssef lives, Fatima stays in Berlin.

Wherever Youssef will live, Fatima will stay in Berlin.

Wherever Youssef went, Fatima stayed in Berlin. (directional)

Wherever Youssef goes, Fatima stays in Berlin.

Wherever Youssef will go, Fatima will stay in Berlin.

When

Whenever Youssef woke up, Fatima had already left.

Whenever Youssef wakes up, Fatima will be already gone.

Whenever Youssef will wake up, Fatima will be already gone.

Correlatives

Some remarks:

- Correlatives can be similar and sometimes identical to unconditionals. They crucially differ in that the consequent contains a pronoun coreferential with the wh-word in the correlative. In some languages, the pronoun is obligatorily (or at least strongly preferentially) a demonstrative rather than an ordinary personal pronoun and is typically fronted. A typical example of a correlative construction - in German - is *Wer nicht kommt, dem kann man nicht helfen* (lit. Who.nom doesn't come, that.dat one cannot help). Yet, sometimes, esp. in pro-drop languages, the demonstrative can also be left out (cf. *Wer kommt, bekommt Hilfe* lit. Who comes gets help).
- Another difference between unconditionals and correlatives is that the latter typically don't use the ever morpheme on the wh-word.
- I'm using English data below (or rather pseudo-English data) even though English doesn't really have productive correlatives.
- Correlatives sometimes have a generic flavor. If the sentences below don't work because they feel too episodic, they can be changed accordingly.

Who

Again, the same applies as above with 'who'.

Whoever arrived, Fatima talked to him. (subject of intransitive/unaccusative predicate)

Whoever arrives, Fatima talks to him.

Whoever will arrive, Fatima will talk to him.

Whoever Youssef invited, that Fatima met. (object)

Whoever Youssef invites, that Fatima meets.

Whoever Youssef will invite, that Fatima will meet.

With whom Youssef went to school, he should be present at his (Youssef's) birthday party.

With whom Youssef is going to school, he should be present at his (Youssef's) birthday party.

With whom Youssef will go to school, he should be present at his (Youssef's) birthday party.

What

Same remarks as above.

What Youssef cooked, that Fatima ate. (object)

What Youssef cooks, that Fatima eats.

What Youssef will cook, that Fatima will eat.

Where

Where Youssef lived, there Fatima went. (locative)

Where Youssef lives, there Fatima goes.

Where Youssef will live, there Fatima will go.

Where Youssef went, there Fatima went. (directional)

Where Youssef goes, there Fatima goes.

Where Youssef will go, there Fatima will go.

When

When Youssef woke up, then Fatima made coffee.

When Youssef wakes up, then Fatima makes coffee.

When Youssef will wake up, then Fatima will make coffee.

Free relatives

Free relatives are fairly well-known constructions (e.g. *I ate **what you cooked***). In case some inspiration would help, you could take a look at a paper by Sadler & Camilleri on free relatives in Maltese. Free relatives come in two versions - plain (*I ate what you cooked*) and ever free relatives (I ate whatever you cooked). They often look very similar to correlatives but, unlike correlatives, they crucially are syntactically “integrated” rather than left-adjoined. Just with subject free relatives, correlatives and free relatives might potentially be hard to tell apart (cf. *What(ever) smells makes me feel dizzy*; whereby a correlative would likely have a pronominal/demonstrative correlate - *What(ever) smells, that makes me feel dizzy*.)

Remark: I’m sometimes putting explanatory paraphrases into square brackets, just to make the intended interpretation clearer. The material in the brackets need not be translated.

Who

Fatima will meet who [the person/people that] Youssef invited. (object)

What

What happened yesterday annoyed me.

Youssef read what Fatima wrote.

Fatima didn’t touch what [the thing(s) that] Youssef ate. (object)

Fatima ate what Youssef cooked.

Fatima met, who Youssef invited.

Youssef did what Fatima told him.

Where

Fatima will show up where [in the place where] Youssef lives. (locative)

Fatima lives where her grandma lived.

When

Fatima called the nurse when [at the time when] Youssef woke up.

Ever free relatives

Essentially the same as above, just try with the 'ever'-morpheme.

Who

Fatima will meet whoever [the person/people] Youssef invited. (object)

What

Fatima didn't touch whatever [the thing(s) that] Youssef ate. (object)

Where

Fatima will show up wherever [in the place(s) where] Youssef lives / will live. (locative)

When

Fatima called the nurse whenever [at the time(s) when] Youssef woke up.

Headed relatives

Do headed relatives use wh-words at all?

The man who Fatima saw now lives in Berlin.

The thing which Fatima ordered arrived.

Sometimes if these do not, then the following do, could you try?

The day when ...

The city where...

The way how...

When 'way' is indefinite, the structure is better

The reason why...