

WHAT ABOUT...? HOW ABOUT...?



B2 FIRST

Best Grammar
Sheets & Tables

Master grammar
for B2-level exams!

What about...?

It is more general and can be used to:

Introduce a new idea or suggestion

- What about going to the park?

Ask for information or clarification

- What about the homework? Is it due tomorrow?

Shift attention to another topic or person.

- I've finished my work. What about you?

Identify obstacles or objections.

Let's go to the beach. But what about your guitar lesson?

How about?

It is used mainly to:

Make a suggestion or proposal.

- How about going to the park?

Offer an alternative.

- We could watch a movie. How about a comedy?

Key difference (simple rule) :

Use "what about" for suggestions, questions, or changing topics.

Use "how about" mostly for suggestions

In many situations, they can be interchangeable

What about pizza for dinner? ✓ / How about pizza for dinner? ✓

But:

What about the exam? ✓ (asking for info)

How about the exam? ✗ (sounds unnatural unless suggesting discussing it)