



Indirect Questions

Grammar > Intermediate 6



Exercise 1 – Learning

Direct and Indirect Questions

A **direct question** is a question that starts with a question word: **what, who, where, why, when, how**

An '**indirect question**' is a direct question inside a statement.

Direct question: "What time is it?" → Indirect question: "Do you know what time it is?"

When speaking, **indirect questions** are usually more **polite** or **formal** than direct questions.

Forming Indirect Questions

1. With the verb '**be**': Switch the subject and '**be**' verb.

What time **is it**? → Do you know what time **it is**?



2. With 'do/does/did': Do **not** switch the subject and verb, simply remove '**do/does/did**'.

Tip: Remember to change the main verb accordingly, add an '-s' to the main verb when you remove '**does**' and change the main verb to the past tense when you remove '**did**'.

Where ***do** they live?* → Do you know where **they** *live?*

Where ***does** she live?* → Do you know where **she** *lives?*

Where ***did** she live?* → Do you know where **she** *lived?*

3. With other helping verbs: When a direct question has a helping verb other than '**do/does/did**', switch **the subject and the helping verb**.

Where ***can** I find* that book? → Do you know where **I** ***can** find* that book?



4. With a question word subject: When the subject of a direct question is a question word/phrase (who, what, what time), the word order does not change.

Who runs fastest? → Do you know **who runs** fastest?

5. With yes-no questions: Use 'if' after the question markers ('do you know'). Then change the verb appropriately (for instance, make it past tense if you took out '**did**').

Did she study for the exam? → Do you know *if she studied* for the exam?



Exercise 2 – Identifying

Identify and correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

Example: I was wondering I could use your car today. → I was wondering if I could use your car today.

Content:

1. Do you know where does she live?
2. Do you know how does it feel to go through a divorce?
3. Can you tell me is there a bank here?
4. Can you tell me where can I find a supermarket?
5. I'd like to know will it rain this afternoon.
6. I'd like to know are they interested in buying our company.
7. Is there any chance that could you come to work on Saturday?
8. Do you have any idea where is my cat?



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create indirect questions with your tutor.

Example: what time, pubs close. → Excuse me, do you know what time the pubs close?

Content:

1. where, the nearest station.
2. when, the next train.
3. how, buy a bus ticket.
4. where, eat chocolate and chips.
5. how, get to Belgrade.
6. how, ride the horse.