Direct and Indirect Questions

What are direct and indirect questions?

Direct questions are the "normal" questions that we can ask friends, family members, and people who we know well. You can form direct questions using the QUASM model (Question Word + Auxiliary + S + Main Verb).

Examples of direct questions:

Where’s the bathroom?

How much will they pay you?

When does the match start?

How did Sam open that door?

Indirect questions are a little more formal and polite. We use them when talking to a person we don’t know very well, or in professional situations, and their form is a little different.

Examples of indirect questions:

Could you tell me where the bathroom is? (The verb "is" comes after the subject "the bathroom")

Have you any idea how much they will pay you? (The verb "will" comes after the subject "they")

Do you have any idea where we can rent a camper? (The verb "can" comes after the subject "we")

Do you know when the match starts? (We don’t use the auxiliary verbs "do or does". Also, we use the verb "start + -s", NOT base form "start")

Do you have any idea how Sam opened that door? (We don’t use the auxiliary verb "did". Also, we use the verb "open + -ed", NOT base form "open")

Indirect Questions can start with such expressions like:

Could you tell me … ?

Do you know … ?

Do you have any idea … ?

*Note: Now go to your text books and read the conversation on page 11. Find out and learn all the indirect questions asked by Erica and the clerk at the airport. Then do the task 9/A.*