

**Indirect questions are polite longer forms of direct questions. We use them when talking to a person we don't know very well or in professional situations.**

Examples:

Where is the department store? - Direct question

**Could you tell me** where the department store is? - Indirect question

What is his name? - Direct question

**Do you know** what his name is? - Indirect question

Indirect questions are formed of two parts: a **polite expression** and a question that has no subject/verb inversion like a direct question.

Examples:

Where is the post office? - Direct question

**Do you know** where the post office is? - Indirect question

What is the time? - Direct question

**Do you have any idea** what the time is? - Indirect question



Indirect questions do not use the auxiliary verbs 'do', 'does' or 'did'.

Examples:

When does the next train arrive? - Direct question

**Do you know** when the next train arrives? - Indirect question

**Do you know** when does the next train arrive? - Incorrect

When did the cinema close down? - Direct question

**Could you tell me** when the cinema closed down? - Indirect question

**Could you tell me** when did the cinema close down? - Incorrect



When the direct question is a yes or no question, we use 'if' and the word order of a normal positive sentence.

Is the restaurant closing now? - Direct question

**Can you tell me** if the restaurant is closing now? - Indirect question

Does Sophia live in New York? - Direct question

**Do you know** if Sophia lives in New York? - Indirect question

**A. Read the direct questions and change them into indirect questions using the polite expressions.**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Where is the station?               | Could you tell me .....     |
| 2. Are you coming to the party?        | Could you let me know ..... |
| 3. How does it work?                   | Could you explain .....     |
| 4. Has Lucy been to Mexico?            | Could you tell me .....     |
| 5. Where are you from?                 | I'd like to know .....      |
| 6. How long does it take to get there? | Do you know .....           |
| 7. What are you doing?                 | Do you have any idea .....  |
| 8. What time are you leaving?          | Do you know .....           |
| 9. Is he a lawyer?                     | Could you tell me .....     |
| 10. Do you drink coffee?               | I was wondering .....       |

**B. Rewrite the indirect questions in the correct word order.**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Would you mind telling me | the is bank where nearest?               |
| .....                        | .....                                    |
| 2. I'd like to know          | an question to indirect make how.        |
| .....                        | .....                                    |
| 3. Could you tell me         | an to class this how 'A' get in?         |
| .....                        | .....                                    |
| 4. Do you know what          | like tomorrow the be weather what will?  |
| .....                        | .....                                    |
| 5. Could you tell me         | you been how English have long studying? |
| .....                        | .....                                    |
| 6. I was wondering           | free your do what time you in?           |
| .....                        | .....                                    |
| 7. I'd be interested to hear | questions of these you what think.       |
| .....                        | .....                                    |

**C. Now, ask and answer the questions with a partner.**