

Activity Type

Grammar Exercises:
gap-fill, unscrambling,
error correction, rewriting
questions

Focus

Indirect questions

Aim

To practice indirect
questions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
two-page worksheet for
each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

Here is an indirect questions worksheet to help students learn and practice how to ask questions politely.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, read through the information about indirect questions with the class.

Students then complete indirect questions with words and phrases from a box.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. you know | 3. the show | 5. the reviews |
| 2. how much | 4. tell us | 6. will be |

Next, students put words in the correct order to form indirect questions.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. Could you tell me how I can get to the park?
2. Do you know what the meeting is about?
3. Could you tell me how much a coffee costs?
4. Do you know when the band will be playing again?

After that, students put a tick next to the indirect questions they think are correct. If they think a question is wrong, they put a cross and correct the mistake.

Exercise C - Answer key

Correct: 1, 3, 4, 8, 10

Incorrect:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. when are we we are going | 7. Could you please explain |
| 5. how can I I can get | 9. how old are you you are? |
| 6. what are we we are getting | |

Lastly, students change direct questions into indirect questions using the polite phrases from the worksheet.

Exercise D - Answer key

1. ...where international departures are?
2. ...what he does at the weekend?
3. ...where you are going to stay?
4. ...what this is?
5. ...when the bus arrives?
6. ...how long you will be on holiday?
7. ...what seat number you have?
8. ...what time the cinema opens?

Indirect Questions

Indirect questions are used to sound polite and slightly formal. They are especially common when speaking to someone you don't know well or in professional settings.

Most indirect questions have several parts and can be in any verb tense. Here are some examples:

Polite phrase	Question word	Subject	Predicate
Do you know	where	the bus stop	is?
Could you tell me	what time	we	should meet tomorrow?
Could you let me know	when	the film	starts?
Do you have any idea	why	they	haven't arrived yet?
May I ask	how	you	got those tickets?
Can you tell me	if	this person	was here yesterday?

A. Complete the indirect questions with the words and phrases from the box.

how much tell us the reviews the show will be you know

1. Do where to buy the tickets?
2. Would you mind telling me the tickets cost?
3. Do you know when starts?
4. Can you where to meet tonight?
5. Do you know if for the show are good?
6. Could you tell me who going with us?



B. Put the words in the correct order to form indirect questions.

1. how / to the park / get / tell me / I / could you / can
.....?
2. about / what / you know / is / do / the meeting
.....?
3. you tell / costs / how much / a coffee / me / could
.....?
4. you / will be playing / when / the band / know / again / do
.....?

C. Put a tick next to the indirect questions you think are correct. If you think a question is wrong, put a cross and correct the mistake.

1. Do you know what time they left the building yesterday?
2. Could you tell me when are we going to have dinner?
3. Do you know if Harry speaks German?
4. Could you tell me where the classroom is?
5. Could you please tell me how can I get to the post office?
6. Do you have any idea what are we getting him for his birthday?
7. Please explain why you decided not to go?
8. Do you know if this bus goes all the way downtown?
9. May I ask how old are you?
10. Do you have any idea where they're going this summer?

D. Now, change the direct questions into indirect questions using the polite phrases from the worksheet.

1. Where are international departures?

.....

2. What does he do at the weekend?

.....

3. Where are you going to stay?

.....

4. What is this?

.....

5. When does the bus arrive?

.....

6. How long will you be on holiday?

.....

7. What seat number do you have?

.....

8. What time does the cinema open?

.....