

Direct and indirect questions

Direct questions

- **Direct questions** are the “normal” questions that we can ask friends, family members, and people who we know well.
- Example of a direct question:
“Where is the bathroom?”



Indirect questions

- **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.
- Example of an indirect question:
“Could you tell me where the bathroom is?”

PHRASES FOR INDIRECT QUESTIONS

- Could you tell me...
- Do you know...
- I was wondering...
- Do you have any idea...
- I'd like to know...
- Would it be possible...
- Is there any chance...

Examples

- **Direct:** Where is Balmaceda Street?
- **Indirect:** Could you tell me where Balmaceda Street is?

In indirect questions with **is/are**, the verb (is) comes *after* the subject (Balmaceda Street).



Examples

- **Direct** What time does the bank open?
- **Indirect:** Do you know what time the bank opens?

In indirect questions, we don't use the auxiliary verbs **do/does/did**.



Examples

- **Direct:** Why did you move to Chile?
- **Indirect:** I was wondering why you moved to Europe.
- Again, there is no auxiliary verb **did** in the indirect question.



Examples

- **Direct:** How much does the iphone 7 cost?
- **Indirect:** I'd like to know how much the iphone 7 costs.
- To form the indirect question, remove **does** and change “cost” to “costs.”



Examples

- **Direct:** Can you finish the project by tomorrow?
- **Indirect:** Would it be possible for you to finish the project by tomorrow?
- For direct questions with **can**, we can use the phrase “would it be possible...” to make it indirect.



Examples

- If the direct question is a “yes or no” question, then the indirect question will have **if**.
- **Direct:** Does Tom like Italian food?
Indirect: Do you know **if** Tom likes Italian food?
- **Direct:** Are your parents joining us for dinner?
Indirect: Could you tell me **if** your parents are joining us for dinner?

Rewrite the sentences without changing the meaning

- Where is the nearest bank?
- Why is that little baby crying?
- Is there any water here?
- Is he coming tomorrow?
- How many cars does she have?
- Do they like swimming?
- What does she want?

Answers

- Could you tell me where the nearest bank is?
- Do you know why that little baby is crying?
- Do you know if there is any water here?
- Could you tell me if he is coming tomorrow?
- Do you know how many cars she has?
- Do you know if they like swimming?
- Could you tell me what she wants?