INDIRECT AND EMBEDDED QUESTIONS

Rewrite the sentences without changing the meaning

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

Read the options and write the right one on provided spaces

- You have no idea of   .
- a. how much does it cost   b. how much cost it   c. how much it costs

- She doesn't know   .
- a. what I want   b. what do you want   c. what do I want

- They wanted to know   from.
- a. where do you come   b. where did you come   c. where you came

- Martha asked me   .
- a. why you leaved   b. why you left   c. why you did leave

- Don't you remember   .
- a. what she told us   b. what did she tell us   c. what she tell us

An embedded question is a question that is included inside another question or statement. They are common after introductory phrases, such as:

- I wonder
- Could you tell me
- Do you know
- Can you remember
- Let's ask
- We need to find out
- I'd like to know
- Could you tell me
- I'm not sure
- Would you mind explaining

If the embedded question is part of a statement, use a period and not a question mark at the end of the sentence. Also, if the question is in the present or past simple verb tense, omit the auxiliary verbs do, does, and did and change the verb to its appropriate form, as in the example below.

- Direct Question
- What time did he leave?

- Embedded Question
- I wonder what time he left.

Rule Two

If the embedded question includes an auxiliary verb or the verb "to be", reverse the positions of the subject and the auxiliary verb, as in the examples below.

- Direct Question
- What did he say?
- Embedded Question
- Could you tell me what he said?
- Direct Question
- Can you help me?
- Embedded Question
- I wonder if you could help me?
- Direct Question
- Is he a doctor?
- Embedded Question
- Do you know if he is a doctor?

Rule Three

⬜ Do not use a verbal contraction at the end of the sentence.

⬜ Direct Question

⬜ Where is she?

⬜ Correct Embedded Question

⬜ Do you know where he is?

⬜ Incorrect Embedded Question

⬜ Do you know where he's?

Rule Four

Embedded questions are introduced by whether, whether or not, and if when there is no question word in the sentence (yes/no questions).

Direct Yes/No Question

Will he be there?

Embedded Question

Do you know if he will be there?

 Do you know whether or not he will be there?

 Do you know whether he will be there or not?

Rule Five

- The infinitive can follow a question word or whether in embedded questions, as in the following example.

- Direct Question
- What should I do?

- Embedded Question
- Please tell me what I should do.

- Embedded Question with an Infinitive
- Please tell me what to do.

Using Embedded Questions

There are times when native English speakers prefer to use embedded rather than direct questions. Here are two examples.

- 1. Politely Asking for Information
- Direct Question
- What time does the bus arrive?

- Embedded Question
- Could you tell me what time the bus arrives?
- (more polite)

- 2. Talking About Something Which Is Unknown to the Speaker

- Direct Question
- Why did she decide not to come with us?

- Embedded Question
- I don't know why she decided not to come with us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION