



Mini Lesson 324 - Indirect Questions for Politeness

Indirect questions are a more polite way of asking something. Instead of asking a direct question, we can phrase it indirectly. This makes our requests sound softer and more respectful.

How to Form Indirect Questions:

- Start with a polite phrase, such as "I was wondering..." or "Could you tell me...".
- Follow it with the question, but remember to avoid the typical question structure (no inversion).

Examples:

- Direct: "What time does the meeting start?"
- Indirect: "Could you tell me what time the meeting starts?"

- Direct: "Where is the library?"
- Indirect: "Do you know where the library is?"

When to Use Indirect Questions:

- When you want to sound polite.
- When you want to avoid putting someone on the spot.
- In formal settings, like talking to a teacher or in business situations.





Exercises:

Section 1: Change the Direct Questions to Indirect Questions

Rewrite the following direct questions as indirect questions.

1. "Where is the nearest bus stop?"
2. "Can you help me with my homework?"
3. "What is your favorite subject in school?"
4. "Why did you choose this school?"
5. "When does the class end?"

Section 2: Fill in the Blanks

Complete each indirect question with the correct words.

1. I was wondering _____ you could help me with this project.
2. Could you tell me _____ the exam is next week?
3. Do you know _____ she is going to the party?
4. I'd like to know _____ you finished the book.
5. Can you explain _____ we need to bring for the trip?

Section 3: Match the Direct Questions to Their Indirect Forms

Match the direct questions on the left with their indirect forms on the right.

1. What time does the store open?
 - a. I was wondering if you knew where the cafeteria is.
2. Where is the cafeteria?
 - b. Could you tell me what time the store opens?





3. How did you solve this problem?
 - c. Do you know how I can get a library card?
4. How can I get a library card?
 - d. I would like to know how you solved this problem.

Section 4: Rewrite the Questions

Change the direct questions to indirect questions.

1. Direct: "Is there a test tomorrow?"
- Indirect: "Could you tell me if there is a test tomorrow?"
2. Direct: "Why are you late?"
- Indirect: "I was wondering why you were late."
3. Direct: "What do you want for lunch?"
- Indirect: "Could you tell me what you would like for lunch?"
4. Direct: "When will we receive our grades?"
- Indirect: "Do you know when we will receive our grades?"





Answers:

Section 1:

1. "Could you tell me where the nearest bus stop is?"
2. "Could you tell me if you can help me with my homework?"
3. "Could you tell me what your favorite subject in school is?"
4. "I was wondering why you chose this school."
5. "Could you tell me when the class ends?"

Section 2:

1. if
2. when
3. if
4. if
5. what

Section 3:

- 1 - b
- 2 - a
- 3 - d
- 4 - c

Section 4:

1. "Could you tell me if there is a test tomorrow?"
2. "I was wondering why you were late."
3. "Could you tell me what you would like for lunch?"
4. "Do you know when we will receive our grades?"

