

REPORTED SPEECH & INDIRECT QUESTIONS



In **reported questions** the verbs are usually in the affirmative and the question mark becomes a full stop. To report a question we use:

- ask + wh- word** (who, where, etc) when the direct question begins with a wh- word,
- ask + if/whether** when the direct question begins with an auxiliary verb (do, have, can, etc.).

Pronouns, possessive adjectives, tenses, time expressions, etc. change as in statements.

*He said, "What are you doing?" He asked **what I was** doing.*

*He said, "Did you enjoy the party?" He asked **if/whether I enjoyed/had enjoyed** the party.*



IMPORTANT:

We use **indirect questions** to ask for *information/advice*.

We use **reported questions** to report someone else's *questions, suggestions, offers or requests*.



Indirect questions are introduced with:

Could you tell me ... ?

Do you know ... ?

I doubt....

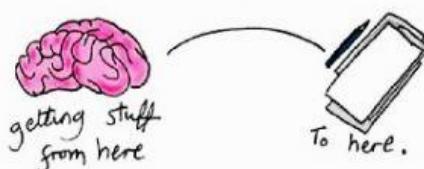
I wonder ...

I want to know ...

Their verb is in the affirmative.

If the indirect question starts with *I wonder ...*, *I want to know ...* or *I doubt ...*, then the question mark is omitted. Question words (**what**, **who**, **where**, etc.) or **whether** can be followed by an infinitive in the reported sentence.

The eternal struggle.



time to study

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DIRECT QUESTIONS

He asked me, "Shall I phone her?"

He asked me, "What time is it?"

He asked me, "Where can put it?"

REPORTED QUESTIONS

He asked me whether he should phone her.

He asked me what time it was.

*He asked me where he could put it.
or He asked me where to put it.*

INDIRECT QUESTIONS

I wonder whether to phone her / whether I should phone her.

Do you know what time it is?

*Do you know where I can put it?
or Do you know where to put it?*

A- Turn the following into *INDIRECT QUESTIONS*. Omit question marks where necessary.

- 1 Where's the post office? Do you know _____
- 2 What have you told her? I wonder _____
- 3 Are we going out tonight? I want to know _____
- 4 Is this correct? I doubt _____
- 5 Whose car is this? I wonder _____
- 6 Does this train stop at Leeds? Could you tell me _____

B- Turn the following *QUESTIONS* into *reported speech*.

- 1 "What's your favourite film?" I asked him _____
- 2 "Where is the dog?" I asked her _____
- 3 "Can you help me carry these bags?" Lisa asked Ted _____
- 4 "Where did I put my car keys?" Daniel wondered _____
- 5 "Do you like spaghetti?" he asked me _____
- 6 "Will you get me some bread at the supermarket?"
Jim asked Pam _____
- 7 "How many countries are there in the EU?"
The teacher asked _____

C- Fill in the gaps with a verb from the list below in the simple past and complete the reported sentence.

• ADVISE • ENCOURAGE • COMPLAIN • ASK • SUGGEST • BEG • PROMISE • ORDER

- 1 "Open the door, please," she said to William. She William the door.
- 2 "Let's go to the shopping centre," Sarah said. Sarah to the shopping centre.
- 3 "Please, please don't tell Lisa about her surprise birthday party," he said to me.
He me Lisa about her surprise birthday party.
- 4 "Get out of the car," Josh said to the man. Josh the man out of his car.
- 5 "You should always lock the door at night," his father told him.
His father him the door at night.
- 6 "I'll clean my room tomorrow," he told his mother.
He his mother that he his room the following day.
- 7 "The service at this restaurant is terrible!" he said to his girlfriend.
He to his girlfriends at the restaurant.
- 8 "Go ahead! Buy a new car!" he told Andrew
He Andrew a new car.