

INDIRECT QUESTIONS

We can be more polite or tentative by beginning a question with a phrase like

Do you know, Do you think/feel, Do you mind *telling me*, Could you tell me,

Could I ask you, I'd like to know, I was wondering

Do you feel this rise in interest is a result of increased recruiting? **Can you give me**

Yale's profile for the Class of '99 (ie. minority, non-US, female)? Also, you

mentioned that Yale has been working hard to strengthen its interview program.

Could you tell me a bit more about what the school is doing on that front?



The word order of an indirect question is like a normal statement.

Direct: Could you call me a taxi? **indirect: Do you think you could call me a taxi?**

Direct: How old are you? **Indirect: Could I ask you how old you are?**

Where there is no question word or modal verb we use if or whether.

Direct: Does Jane still work here? **indirect: Do you know if Jane still works here?**

TIME TO PRACTISE



Underline the correct words.

1 Could you tell me what are **your terms of payment/your terms of payment are?**

2 Do you know where **the marketing seminar is/is the marketing seminar?**



3 I'd like to know how **can we/we can** finance this project.

4 Could I ask you why **you left/did you leave** your last job?

5 Do you think **could I/I could** use your fax machine?

Match the two parts to make complete questions.

1 Can you tell me where ...	a) I can order this DVD online?
2 Do you have any idea how long ...	b) it's cheaper online.
3 Could you tell me how much ...	c) the delivery takes?
4 Do you know if ...	d) the nearest ATM is?
5 Can you tell me what time ...	e) this book costs?
6 I wonder if ...	f) the store closes?

Listen to the conversation and complete the questions. Then write the direct questions underneath.



1 Can you tell me if _____?

Do _____?

2 Could you tell me where _____?

Where _____?

3 Do you know if you _____?

Do _____?

4 Do you have any idea _____?

Where _____?

