

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_?