

Language focus 1: Indirect ways of asking questions

Compare these two ways of asking the same question:

Direct: *What time does the Pagagnini concert start?*

Indirect: *Could you tell me what time the Pagagnini concert starts?*

Asking questions in a more indirect way, using expressions such as *Could you tell me*, can make them sound more polite. Write the direct form of the following questions:

1 I'd be interested to know when Rhythm of the Dance started performing.

When _____?

2 Would you mind telling me why you call the show *iD*?

3 I'd like to know if the Tap Dogs are planning to come here.

Questions a–f were prepared by a music journalist planning to interview one of the members of *Pagagnini*. Rewrite them to make them indirect. If possible, choose a different phrase from the box to begin each one.

I'd be interested to know ... Could you explain ...
Would you mind telling us ... We'd like to know ...
Could you tell me ... I was wondering if you could tell me ...

a Why are you called 'Pagagnini'?

b When did you start performing together?

c Have you ever toured outside of Europe?

d What type of music do you prefer playing?

e How many hours do you practise your instrument each day?

f Do you clown around when you're off stage as well?