



## DIRECT & INDIRECT QUESTIONS



**Indirect questions are a more polite way to ask for information or make requests.** We often use them when asking something of strangers or people we do not know well.

We also use them when asking for **favours** from friends or when we want to avoid sounding demanding.

When we make requests in English, we usually use the modal verbs **can**, **could** and **would**. We also use these modals to begin many indirect questions.

Here are a few common **phrases** in making indirect questions:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| Can / Could / Would you tell me..?<br>Can / Could / Would you inform me...?<br>Can / Could/ Would you let me know...?<br>Do you know ...?<br>Would you mind ...?<br>Do you have any idea ...?<br>Would it be possible ...? | I would be grateful if you could tell me...<br>I'm interested in finding out...<br>Please let me know...<br>I was wondering ...<br>I would like to know / ask... |
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Study the following examples.

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                  |
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| <p><b>Where is the teacher?</b></p> <p>↓</p> <p><b>Can you tell me where the teacher is?</b></p> | <p><b>What do you like about the museum?</b></p> <p>↓</p> <p><b>I wonder what you like about the museum.</b></p> |
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| DIRECT QUESTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | INDIRECT QUESTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How much is the registration fee?</li> <li>Will the team do any training before the race?</li> <li>Is accommodation included in the price?</li> <li>What do I need to bring along?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>I would like to know</b> how much the registration fee is.</li> <li><b>I was wondering</b> if / whether the team will do any training before the race.</li> <li><b>Do you know</b> if / whether accommodation is included in the price?</li> <li><b>Could you tell me</b> what I need to bring along?</li> </ul> |
| <p>In indirect questions, the <b>word order is the same</b> as in affirmative sentences and the <b>tenses do not change</b>.</p>                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

Form the indirect questions.

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Where is the station?   |
|   | Can you tell me _____ ? |

|    |                                                                           |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. | Are you coming to the party?<br>Can you let me know if _____ ?            |
| 3  | How does it work?<br>Can you explain _____ ?                              |
| 4  | What's the matter?<br>Please tell me _____ .                              |
| 5  | Where are you from?<br>I'd like to know _____ .                           |
| 6  | How many students are participating?<br>Can you tell me _____ ?           |
| 7  | When does the cycling team meet?<br>I was wondering _____ .               |
| 8  | Is a certificate awarded to participants?<br>I would like to know _____ . |
| 9  | Does this event take place every year?<br>Do you know _____ ?             |
| 10 | Where is the registration office?<br>Could you tell me _____ ?            |