



QUESTIONS IN INDIRECT SPEECH

Direct question: *He said, "Where is she going?"*

Indirect question: *He asked where she was going.*

- A. When we turn direct questions into indirect speech, the following changes are necessary:
- tenses, pronouns and possessive adjectives, and adverbs of time and place change as in statements.
 - the interrogative form of the verb changes to the affirmative form.
 - the question mark is omitted in indirect questions.
- B. If the introductory verb is **say**, it must be changed to a verb of inquiry, e.g. **ask, wonder, want to know** etc.

He said, "Where is the station?" → He asked where the station was.

- C. **ask** can be followed by the person addressed (indirect object):

He asked, "What have you got in your bag?" → He asked (me) what I had got in my bag.

But **wonder** and **want to know** cannot take an indirect object, so if we wish to report a question where the person addressed is mentioned, we must use **ask**.

He said, "Mary, when is the next train?" → He asked Mary when the next train was.

- D. If the direct question begins with a question word (when, where, who, how, why etc.) the question word is repeated in the indirect question:

He said, "Why didn't you put on the brake?" → He asked (her) why she hadn't put on the brake.

She said, "What do you want?" → She asked (them) what they wanted.

- E. If there is no question word, **if** or **whether** must be used:

"Is anyone there?" he asked → He asked if/whether anyone was there.

Task 1

Write these sentences as reported questions using the words given.

- "What's your name?", he asked. (wanted to know)
- "Do you like Marlon Brandon?", she asked.
- "How old are you?", she said. (asked)
- "When does the train leave?", I asked.
- "Are you enjoying yourself?", he asked.
- "How are you?", he said. (asked)
- "Does your father work here?", she asked.
- "Do you live near your father?", he asked.
- "Who did you see at the meeting?", my mother asked.
- "Why did you take my wallet?", he asked.

Task 2

Change the questions below from direct speech to indirect speech:

- She said to her daughter, "Are you coming home for dinner?"
- I said, "How old are you?"
- They asked each other, "What will we do this summer?"
- He said to Kim, "Why are you shouting?"
- I said to them, "Is the movie over?"
- He asked her, "Are you ok?"

7. I asked, "When is your birthday?"
8. The teacher said, "Are you ready for the test?"

Task 3

Turn these direct questions into indirect questions.

Example: *Where is the shop? - Can you tell me where the shop is?*

1 Where is he from?

Do you know ?

2 How many countries has he travelled to?

I wonder .

3 Where did you go?

Can you tell me ?

4 Have you finished the report yet?

I'd like to know .

5 Does he go out very often?

I've no idea whether .

6 Who was she talking to?

I wonder who .

7 Where is the nearest station?

Could you tell me where ?

8 Why can't you help your new colleague?

Would you mind telling me why ?

9 What is our new boss like?

I'd like to find out what .

10 How could you do that?

I don't know how .

Task 4

Choose the correct forms to complete the following questions. There are direct and indirect questions.

1 I don't know the answer. How many times to tell you?

2 I don't know so unhappy.

3 Do you have any idea when ?

4 How many people for the party?

5 I wonder .

6 Did she tell you how often ?

7 I'd like to know for the experiment.

8 Could you tell me why ?

9 Can I ask you how long here?

10 Why ?

Task 5

Choose the correct forms to complete the questions below. There are direct and indirect questions.

1. I'd like to know _____.

- a. how can I contact her
- b. how I can contact her
- c. how do I contact her

2. I was wondering _____ the recipe.

- a. where you found
- b. where did you find
- c. where found you

3. Would you mind telling me _____?

- a. how much did the sofa cost
- b. how much cost the sofa
- c. how much the sofa cost

4. How long _____ to finish the project?

- a. it is going to take
- b. is it going to take
- c. it's going to take

5. _____ in this house?

- a. How much time you have been living
- b. How long you've been living
- c. How long have you been living

6. Could you tell me _____?

- a. what are you afraid
- b. what you are afraid
- c. what you are afraid of

7. Do you know _____?

- a. if is he going to come
- b. if he's going to come
- c. whether is he going to come

8. I'd like to know _____.

- a. why you are acting so weird
- b. why are you acting so weird
- c. why act you so weird

9. Do you have any idea _____?

- a. is who the man in black
- b. who's the man in black
- c. who the man in black is

10. _____? Can you tell me?

- a. Where is the new student from
- b. Where the new student is from
- c. From where is the new student