

# Asking indirect questions

## *Wh-* questions and yes/no questions

### Use

Indirect questions are used when you want to be polite, in more formal situations, or if you are not sure that the person can answer your question.

### Form

Auxiliaries *do*, *does* or *did* are **not** used in indirect questions.

You don't invert the subject of the sentence and the auxiliary or modal verbs (e.g. *is*, *are*, *was*, *will*, *have*, *can*) in indirect questions. You often do this to form direct questions.

<p>Indirect <i>wh-</i> questions usually have the following form</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introductory phrase</li> <li>2. Question word</li> <li>3. Subject</li> <li>4. Verb</li> </ol>	<p>Indirect <i>yes/no</i> questions usually have the following form</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introductory phrase</li> <li>2. 'Whether' or 'if'</li> <li>3. Subject</li> <li>4. Verb</li> </ol>
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### Examples

Introductory phrase	Question word <i>or</i> <i>whether/if</i>	Subject	Verb
Please can you tell me	what time	the supermarket	closes?
Do you know	why	the meeting	Is starting late?
Can you tell me	how much	the flight	is?
Can you confirm	whether	you	will come to the party?
Could you let me know	if	this bus	leaves now?

### Comparison Direct and indirect questions

Direct question	Indirect question
What time does the supermarket close?	Please can you tell me what time the supermarket closes?
Why is the meeting starting late?	Do you know why the meeting is starting late?
How much is the flight?	Can you tell me how much the flight is?
Are you coming to the party?	Can you confirm whether you will come to the party?
Does this bus leave now?	Could you let me know if this bus leaves now?