

75 Polite questions

Indirect questions are more polite than direct questions. In spoken English, you might use them to ask people who you don't know very well about practical issues.

 **New language** Indirect questions

 **Vocabulary** Practical issues

 **New skill** Asking polite questions

75.1 KEY LANGUAGE INDIRECT QUESTIONS

Indirect questions often start with a polite opening phrase. After the question word, the word order in indirect questions is the same as in positive statements.



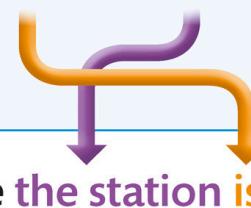
Do you know
Could you tell me

Indirect questions start with an opening phrase.



Where is the station?

where the station is?



The verb comes after the subject.



75.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES INDIRECT QUESTIONS

Do you know how much the tickets will cost?



Like reported questions, indirect questions leave out the auxiliary verb "do."

Could you tell me why you were late?



Could you tell me what time the stores close?



75.3 HOW TO FORM INDIRECT QUESTIONS

OPENING PHRASE

Do you know

QUESTION WORD

where

SUBJECT

the station

VERB

is?

Could you tell me

Start with a polite opening phrase.

The verb doesn't change to the past tense for indirect questions.



75.4 REWRITE THE INDIRECT QUESTIONS, PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

can I luggage? know where Do my you collect

Do you know where I can collect my luggage?

1 the you what tell Could me meeting starts? time

2 know bus Do when you leaves? next the

3 is? the how know Do long you movie

4 tell work? why you come me you Could to can't



75.5 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO, THEN NUMBER THE PICTURES IN THE ORDER THEY ARE DESCRIBED

