Unit 13: INDIRECT QUESTIONS AND 'NON-QUESTIONS'

Direct and indirect questions

Where is the bank? is a **DIRECT QUESTION**. Do you know where the bank is? is an **INDIRECT QUESTION**. It is a polite way of getting information.

a Do not use question formation (Unit 9) after the question word because you have already used it before the word.

Could you tell me how much it costs?			NOT *does it cost*
Do you know	where	the toilets are?	NOT *are the toilets*
Can you ask him	when	we can leave?	NOT *can we leave*
Could you tell me	what	they are doing?	NOT *are they doing*

b For an indirect question without a question word, use if:

Could you tell me if the flight from New York has arrived?

Do you know   if the flight to New York has left yet?

Reported questions

These questions tell us about questions, but they do not ask them. They are **REPORTED QUESTIONS**.

She wants to know when the course begins.	NOT *does . . . begin*
He wants to know where he can smoke.	NOT *can he smoke*

Statements with question words

Here are some more statements with question words:

I can't remember	where I have put them.	NOT *have I put*
I'd like to know	what you saw there.	NOT *did you see*
They haven't decided	where they will go.	NOT *will they go*

Exclamation

An exclamation shows interest or surprise. They use question words but, again, they are not questions.

What a beautiful day it is!   NOT *is it*

Look how fast they are going!   NOT *are they going*