Unit 13: INDIRECT QUESTIONS AND 'NON-QUESTIONS'

Direct and indirect questions

Where is the waiting room? is a **DIRECT QUESTION**. Do you know where the waiting room 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 pharmacy has a blood pressure clinic tomorrow?
Do you know	if the pharmacist will be there?

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*