

Indirect questions

Please, can you tell me ... ?

1 Read the sentences in the box and answer questions 1–4.

A	B
a What's the time?	→ Can you tell me what the time is?
b Who does he work for?	→ I have no idea who he works for.
c Where did she go?	→ I don't know where she went.
d Do they have any children?	→ I wonder if they have any children?

- Which are direct questions? Which are indirect?
- What are the differences?
- Why is there no *does* and *did* in B?
- When is *if* used?

SPOKEN ENGLISH Asking questions politely

1 12.5 It sounds more polite to ask questions indirectly.

Listen and complete these examples.

Where's the station?	→ Could you tell me where ... ?
What do you earn?	→ Could you possibly tell me how much ... ?
How much did you pay for that shirt?	→ Would you mind telling me how much ... ?
What time do the banks close?	→ Do you know when ... ?
Is Kate coming?	→ I wonder if ... ?

2 12.5 Listen again and repeat. Pay attention to stress and intonation.

2 Work with a partner. Match the lines in A, B, and C to make some everyday questions.

A	B	C
What (x3)	time	do you normally get up?
Who	football team	do you support?
Which	is (x2)	music do you like?
How much	kind of	in front of a screen each day?
How many	time do you spend	a day do you check your phone?
How long	times	your last job?
Why (x2)	did you leave	your dream job?
	have you been	learning English?
	don't you	your favourite sportsperson?
		reply to my texts?

3 Ask and answer the questions in 2 more politely using a suitable phrase from Spoken English and 1.

12.6 Can you tell me what time you normally get up?

12.6 Listen and compare.



- where / when / born
- who / parents
- what / first film role
- what / most famous film
- ever won any awards
- how many times married
- how many children
- do other kinds of work
- why / so admired

4 What do you know about **Angelina Jolie**?

Make *indirect* questions about her using the prompts 1–9 above and the phrases below.

I wonder ... I don't know ... I have no idea ...
I want to know ... I'm not sure ...

I wonder where she was born?

I have no idea who her parents are.

5 Work with a partner.

Student A: Ask direct and indirect questions about Angelina.

Can you tell me what her first film role was?

When was it?

Student B: Turn to p156. Read the information about Angelina and answer the questions.

Her first film role was ...