

## 1. Embedded questions (indirect questions)

- “Where is the post office?”
- “Could you tell me where the post office is?”

“Which one sounds more polite? and why ?”

Type	Example	Notes
Direct question	Where is she?	Question word order (auxiliary + subject)
Indirect question	Could you tell me where she <b>is</b> ?	Statement word order (subject + verb)
Direct yes/no question	Is he coming?	–
Indirect yes/no question	Do you know <b>if/whether he is coming</b> ?	Add <i>if/whether</i>

### ✓ Rules to highlight:

- No question order after the introductory clause.
- No question mark unless it’s a real question (e.g., *Could you tell me...?*)
- Common starters:  
*Could you tell me...?, Do you know...?, I wonder..., Can you explain...?*

Direct Question	Indirect Question
What time does the movie start?	Could you tell me what time the movie starts?
Where is my phone?	Do you know where my phone is?
Is she married?	Can you tell me if she is married?

## 2. Teaching the Functional & Pragmatic Use of Questions

'Can you pass the salt?',

'Why not?',

'Aren't you tired?'

- Are all these really asking for information?
- Why do people ask questions if they already know the answer?
- Discuss how questions can have different purposes (functions) like *sarcasm*, *politeness*, *encouragement*.

### Major functions of questions:

Function	Example
Information-seeking /To ask for new information.	Where do you live?
Request / Polite command	Could you open the window?
Offer/ Offering help	Shall I help you with that?
Suggestion/ Making a proposal	Why don't we go out?
Checking / Confirmation/ Verifying information	You're free tomorrow, aren't you?
Rhetorical / No real answer expected	Who cares? / Why bother?
Showing surprise / emotion/ Expressing feelings or reaction	Really? / Did she?
Inviting / Persuading/ Encouraging someone politely.	Won't you join us?
Criticism	<i>Why don't you study harder?</i>
Admiration	<i>Isn't that beautiful?</i>

Read each short dialogue carefully. Then, identify the **function** of the question in bold (e.g., request for information, checking understanding, showing surprise, making a suggestion, expressing criticism, offering help, rhetorical question, etc.).

1. A: **You haven't finished the report yet?**

B: I'll send it by tonight, don't worry.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

2. A: **Could you pass me the salt, please?**

B: Sure, here you go.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

3. A: **Are you really going to wear that to the interview?**

B: What's wrong with it?

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

4. A: **Didn't I tell you to call me when you arrived?**

B: Sorry, my phone died.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

5. A: **Why don't we take a short break before continuing?**

B: Good idea, I need some coffee.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

6. A: **What time is it?**

B: It's almost eight.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

7. A: **How would you feel if someone said that to you?**

B: You're right, I shouldn't have said it.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

8. A: **Who cares what they think?**

B: Yeah, let's just do it our way.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

9. A: **Is this seat taken?**

B: No, go ahead.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_

10. A: **Haven't we already discussed this a hundred times?**

B: Okay, okay, let's drop it.

Question function: \_\_\_\_\_