

Direct and Indirect Questions

Can you tell us about the new products you've been designing?

I'd love to learn more about the charity work your foundation is doing this year.

What is your company's plan for this year?

I wonder if you know how many people they'll be hiring in the fall.

They're interested to know more about the positions available in your department.

Are there any updates on the project you're working on?

Direct Questions

Direct questions always begin with a question word or auxiliary verb (like do/does or is/are). They always end with a question mark.

Use these questions for informal and friendly interactions.

*When does the workshop start?
Do you want to get lunch together?*

Indirect Questions

Indirect questions are questions embedded in statements. They begin with phrases like "I wonder", "Can you tell me", "I'm interested to know", etc.

Use these questions for polite, formal interactions.

*I'd like to know who does your social media.
Can you tell me a little more about your company?*

Practice assignment:

- Look at the speech bubbles above. Which ones have direct questions and which have indirect questions?
- Which type of question would you use for the follow scenarios:
a) asking your boss for a raise b) checking the status of a project with your colleague c) asking a presenter at a conference a question about their research d) asking a colleague for the time.
- Write 3 indirect questions you can ask at a business meeting.

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