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**Indirect questions**

When we need to get some information from a complete stranger, we often make our questions less direct (and thus more polite) by beginning with one of the following phrases:

* Could you tell me…
* Do you know…
* Would you mind telling me…
* Would you possibly know…
* Would you happen to know…

**Example**

* Where is the restroom?
* Excuse me, would you mind telling me where the restroom is?

*Note the word order! Now you try it.*

**Group 1**

1. Where is the nearest phone?
2. How much does a ticket to Stockholm cost?
3. When is Flight 37 expected to arrive?
4. Is this seat taken?
5. Does this bus go downtown?
6. What time is it?
7. Is this information correct?
8. How much does it cost to fly from Frankfurt to Chicago?
9. Where is the bus station?
10. Whose cell phone is this?

**Group 2**

1. Where is terminal 3?
2. How much does it cost to take the train from here to Berlin?
3. Is this map up-to-date?
4. What time will the conference start?
5. Where is the nearest restroom?
6. When is Flight 45 scheduled to depart?
7. How much does a ticket to London cost?
8. Does this bus stop at the Hilton Hotel?
9. Whose coat is this?
10. Is there a police station near here?

**Clarifying with indirect questions**

Indirect questions are also often used to help clarify information at work.

* Hey George, do you know what the agenda for today’s meeting is?
* I’m not sure I understand where the problem lies.
* Could you let me know who the project leader is?

Form practice chains consisting of at least three people. Practice indirect question forms as in the example below.

**Example**

cue: where / located

speaker 1: Where is the training schedule?

speaker 2: Sorry, I don’t know.

Do *you* (to the 3rd person) know where it is?

speaker 3: No, sorry. Perhaps \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can tell us where it is.

**Group 1:**

1. how much / cost
2. when / start
3. whose / that
4. how long / Steve
5. what kind / have

**Group 2:**

1. who / head of the department
2. what time / get
3. which / like
4. where / born
5. what color / eyes

**Group 3:**

1. what / this weekend
2. how far / it
3. how often / you
4. why / postpone
5. who / talk

**Group 4:**

1. how long / to Rome
2. why / blue
3. to whom / give
4. where / last night
5. what kind / want