

INDIRECT QUESTIONS

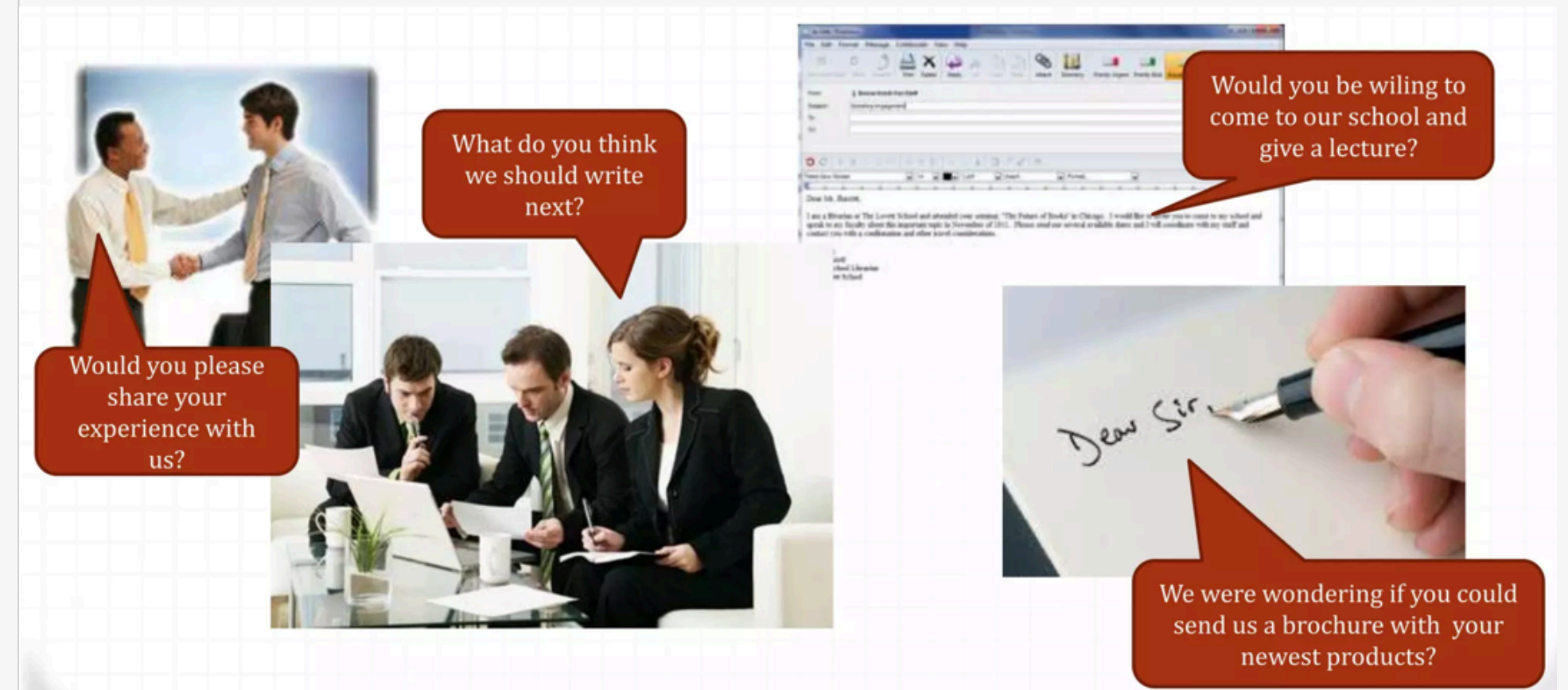
English FastPass: Learn for Success





Indirect questions are used:

- in professional situations
- when we are speaking to people we don't know
- when we want to ask questions in a more formal way



Indirect questions start with an **opening phrase**:

- *Can/Could you tell me...*
- *Do you mind me asking...*
- *Do you know...*
- *I wonder... / I was wondering...*
- *Would you like telling me...*
- *I'd like to know...*

e.g. Could you tell me what the dress code in the office is?

e.g. I'd like to know what time the meeting starts.

**Indirect questions
have intonation of
a statement**

Direct Question: Do you need this chair? ↗

Indirect Question: I was wondering if you need this chair. ↘

Direct Question: Does he work from home? ↗

Indirect Question: Do you know if he works from home. ↘

Question words
*what/where/when/
who/whose/why/how*
**are used to introduce
the question**

Who is your best friend?

Would you like telling me **who** your best friend is?

Where is Derek?

I wonder **where** Derek is.

How old are you?

Do you mind me asking **how** old you are?

Where are you from?

Can you tell me **where** you're from?

**In a general question
we'll need another
conjunction:
if/whether**

Is Mike married?

*Could you tell me **if** Mike is married.*

*Could you tell me **whether** Mike is married.*

Do you have a full-time job?

*I'd like to know **if** you have a full-time job.*

*I'd like to know **whether** you have a full time job.*

**Auxiliaries
do/does/did
are omitted**

*How **do** you spend your evenings?*

I was wondering how you spend your evenings.

*How **does** she spend her evenings?*

I was wondering how she spends her evenings.

*Why **did** you leave your last job?*

*Do you mind me asking why you **left** your last job?*

Let's sum up!

- *Indirect questions start with an opening phrase.*
- *Indirect questions have intonation of a statement.*
- *Question words **what/where/when/who/whose/why** are used to introduce the question.*
- *In case of a general question, we'll need the conjunction **if/whether** to introduce the question.*
- *Auxiliaries **do/does/did** are omitted.*
- *Remember to use the correct verb form for Past Simple and Present Simple 3d person singular.*