11.1 Indirect questions

 Indirect questions have the same word order as the positive and there is no do/does/did.

Tom lives in California.

Do you know where Tom lives?

NOT Do you know where does Tom live?

2 We often make direct questions into indirect questions to make them sound 'softer' or more polite.

Direct question

What time do the banks close?

Indirect question

Could you tell me

Do you know Do you happen to know

Have you any idea

Do you remember

Would you mind telling me

If there is no question word, use if or whether.

I don't know if I'm coming or not.

I wonder whether it's going to rain.

Here are some more expressions that introduce indirect questions:

what time the banks close?

I don't know

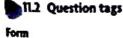
I wonder

I can't remember

I've no idea I'd like to know

I'm not sure

how long the journey takes.



1 Question tags are very common in spoken English. The most common patterns are:

positive sentence - negative tag

You're Jenny, aren't you?

or negative sentence - positive tag

It isn't a very nice day, is it?

 We repeat the auxiliary verb in the tag. If there is no auxiliary, use do/does/did.

You haven't been here before, have you?
You can speak French, can't you?
We should take the children out, shouldn't we?
Banks close at four, don't they?
She eats meat, doesn't she?
You went to bed late, didn't you?

Note

For negative question tags with I'm ..., use aren's.

I'm late, aren't !?

NOT I'm late, am't !?

Rut

I'm not late, am I? NOT I'm not late, aren't I?

3 Notice the meaning of Yes and No in answer to question tags. 'You're coming, aren't you?' 'Yes.' (= 1 am coming.)

'No.' (= I'm not coming.)



Tell me about it!

Indirect questions . Question tags . The body . Informal English



TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- 1 All of these sentences are correct. Why is there no does in sentences 2 and 3?
 - 1 Where does she live?
 - 2 I know where she lives.
 - 3 Can you tell me where she lives?

Choose the correct question tag.

1 It's a beautiful day,

did he?

2 You like learning English,

isn't it? didn't they?

3 You've been to Australia, 5 4 Henry didn't say that,

don't you?

5 They had a good time,

3 haven't you?



A STRANGER IN TOWN Indirect questions

I TIM Flavia has just checked into her hotel in Toronto. Look at the information she wants, then listen to the conversation. Complete her sentences.



What Flavia wants to know	What Flavia says
1 Could you help me? 2 Are we near the CN Tower?	I wonder if you coal help me. I'm not sure if we are near the
3 Are there any good restaurants nearby? 4 What time do the banks close? 5 Which restaurant did you suggest?	CN Tower. Can you tell me if there any good restaurants nearby? I don't know what time the banks. I'm sorry, but I can't remember which restaurant you suggested

2 Complete the conversation between Karen and her assistant with a question tag from the box.

didn't I? isn't it? am I? haven't I?

- K Now, what's happening today? I've got a meeting thi afternoon, haven't!?
- A Yes, that's right. With Henry and Tom.
- K And the meeting's here, isn't it?
- A No, it isn't. It's in Tom's office at 3 o'clock.
- K Oh! I'm not having lunch with anyone, am I?
- A No, you're free for lunch.
- K Phew! And I signed all my letters, didn't I?
- A No, you didn't, actually. They're on your desk, waiting for you.
- K OK. I'll do them now. Thanks a lot.
 - 111.3 Listen and check. Does Karen's intonation go up or down on the question tags?