

Direct vs Indirect Questions

A **direct question** puts the verb or auxiliary before the subject: *Where is the station?* An **indirect question** starts with a polite opening and then uses statement order, with no do/does/did: *Do you know where the station is?*

DIRECT QUESTION · QUESTION ORDER

Where is the station?



INDIRECT QUESTION · STATEMENT ORDER

Do you know where the station is?



1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- Excuse me, where _____?
a) the exit is b) is the exit
- Do you know where _____?
a) the exit is b) is the exit
- What time _____?
a) does the shop close b) the shop closes
- Can you tell me what time _____?
a) does the shop close b) the shop closes
- I'd like to know _____ there's parking.
a) is b) whether

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. Do you know where is the station?

2. Could you tell me what does it cost?

3. Where the station is?

3. Your turn

Write two sentences about your own life: one with **Direct question** and one with **Indirect question**. Then explain the difference to a partner.

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/compare/direct-vs-indirect-questions

Direct vs Indirect Questions

1. Choose the right answer

1. **b) is the exit** A direct question: be before the subject.
2. **a) the exit is** An indirect question: statement order.
3. **a) does the shop close** A direct question: does before the subject.
4. **b) the shop closes** An indirect question: no does.
5. **b) whether** A yes/no indirect question takes if or whether.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **Do you know where the station is?** After the opening, use statement order.
2. **Could you tell me what it costs?** No does in an indirect question.
3. **Where is the station?** A direct question needs question order.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.