

UNIT 50

Questions (2) (Do you know where ...? / He asked me where ...)

- a) When we ask people for information, we sometimes begin our question with **Do you know ...?** or **Could you tell me ...?** If you begin a question like this, the word order is different from a simple question:

Compare:	Where has Tom gone?	(simple question)
	Do you know where Tom has gone?	

When the question (**Where has Tom gone?**) is part of a bigger sentence (**Do you know ...**), it loses the normal question word order. Compare:

- When will Ann arrive? Have you any idea when Ann will arrive?
- What time is it? Could you tell me what time it is?
- Why are you laughing? Tell us why you are laughing.

Be careful with **do/does/did** questions:

- When does the film begin? Do you know when the film begins?
- Why did Ann leave early? I wonder why Ann left early.

Use **if** or **whether** where there is no other question word:

- Did he see you? Do you know **if** (or **whether**) he saw you?

- b) The same changes in word order happen in *reported* questions:

direct The policeman said to us, 'Where **are you going** ?'

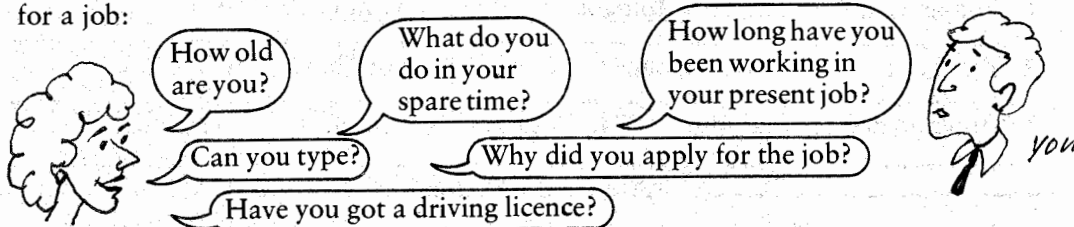
reported The policeman asked us where **we were going** .

direct Tom said, 'What time **do the banks close** ?'

reported Tom wanted to know what time **the banks closed** .

In reported questions the verb usually changes to the past (were, closed). For more information about this see Unit 47.

Now study these examples. Here are some of the questions you were asked at an interview for a job:



Now you tell a friend (in reported speech) what the interviewer asked you:

- She asked (me) how old I was.
- She enquired whether (or if) I had a driving licence. (or had got)
- She wanted to know whether (or if) I could type.
- She asked (me) what I did in my spare time.
- She wanted to know how long I had been working in my present job.
- She asked (me) why I had applied for the job. (or 'why I applied')

UNIT 50 Exercises

50.1 In this exercise you have to make a new sentence from these questions.

Example: Where has Tom gone? Do you know where Tom has gone..... ?

- 1 Where is the post office? Could you tell me
- 2 What does this word mean? Do you know
- 3 What's the time? I wonder
- 4 Where did you park your car? Can't you remember
- 5 Is Ann coming to the meeting? I don't know
- 6 Where does Jack live? Have you any idea
- 7 What time did he leave? Do you know
- 8 Where can I change some money? Could you tell me
- 9 What qualifications do I need? I want to know
- 10 Why didn't Tom come to the party? I don't know
- 11 How much does it cost to park here? Do you know

50.2 You are making a phone call. You want to speak to Sue but she isn't there. Someone else answers the phone. You want to know three things: (1) **where has she gone?** (2) **when will she be back?** and (3) **did she go out alone?** Complete the conversation:

- 1 'Do you know' ?' 'Sorry, I've got no idea.'
- 2 'Never mind. I don't suppose you know' 'No, I'm afraid I don't.'
- 3 'One more thing. Do you happen to know' ?' 'I'm afraid I didn't see her go out.'


50.3 You have been away for a while and have just come back to your home town. You meet Gerry, a friend of yours. He asks you lots of questions:

- 1 How are you?

2 How long have you been back?

3 What are you doing now?

4 Where are you living?



5 Are you glad to be back?

6 Are you going away again?

7 Why did you come back?

8 Do you still smoke?

9 Can you come to dinner on Friday?

Now you tell another friend what Gerry asked you. Use reported speech.

- 1 He asked me how I was
- 2 He asked me
- 3 He asked
- 4 He
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9