

## 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:	<sup>1</sup> Where <sup>2</sup> has Tom gone?	(simple question)
	<sup>2</sup> Do you know where <sup>1</sup> 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 <b>will</b> Ann arrive? | Have you any idea when Ann <b>will</b> arrive? |
| - What time <b>is</b> it?      | Could you tell me what time <b>it is</b> ?     |
| - Why <b>are</b> you laughing? | Tell us why <b>you are</b> laughing.           |

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

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

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

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| - Did he see you? | Do you know <b>if</b> (or <b>whether</b> ) he saw you? |
|-------------------|--|

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

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

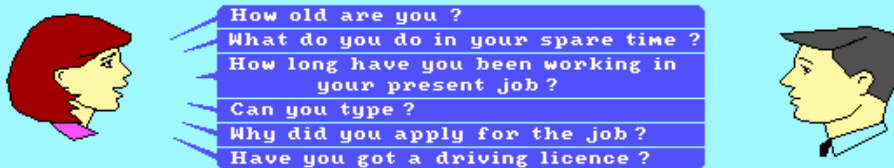
*reported*                      The policeman asked us where **we were going** .

*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**')