

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:	1 2	
	Where has Tom gone?	(simple question)
	2 1	
	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** ?'

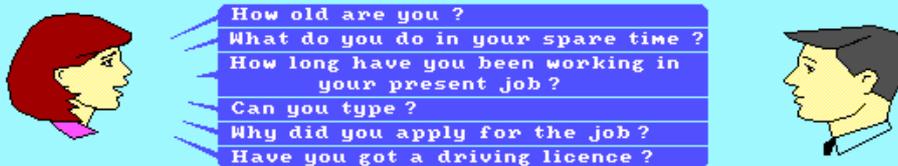
reported The policeman asked us where **we were going** .

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**')