



Indirect Questions:

Advanced Indirect Questions & Common Traps

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. Could you tell me ____?
a) where will the meeting be held
b) where the meeting will held
c) where the meeting will be held
d) where will be held the meeting
2. I wonder ____.
a) how long has she been waiting
b) how long she has been waiting
c) how long she been waiting
d) how long been she has waiting
3. Do you know ____?
a) what she would have done
b) what would she have done
c) what she would done
d) what would have she done
4. I'd like to know ____.
a) why has the flight been delayed
b) why the flight been delayed
c) why been delayed the flight
d) why the flight has been delayed
5. Choose the sentence with the correct word order.
a) I wonder what time does the concert start.
b) I wonder what time the concert start.
c) I wonder what time the concert starts.
d) I wonder what time starts the concert.
6. Which sentence is correct?
a) Could you tell me where the nearest ATM is?
b) Could you tell me where is the nearest ATM?
c) Could you tell me where the nearest ATM are?
d) Could you tell me where does the nearest ATM?
7. She asked me _____. (reported question — past tense shift needed)
a) where I have been
b) where I had been
c) where had I been
d) where I been
8. Choose the correct indirect question.
a) Do you know how much does it cost?
b) Do you know how much it cost?
c) Do you know how much costs it?
d) Do you know how much it costs?
9. I have no idea _____.
a) who could have taken my umbrella
b) who could have my umbrella taken
c) who my umbrella could have taken
d) who taken could have my umbrella
10. He wanted to know _____. (reported question)
a) had the project been completed
b) whether the project had been completed
c) whether had the project been completed
d) whether the project completed had been

11. Nobody knows ____.
- a) when did the problem start
b) when the problem start
c) when the problem started
d) when started the problem
12. Can you explain ____?
- a) why isn't the system working
b) why the system not working
c) why not the system is working
d) why the system isn't working
13. Choose the correct punctuation.
- a) I wonder where he went.
b) I wonder where he went?
c) I wonder where he went,
d) I wonder where he went!
14. Which is an indirect question (not a reported question)?
- a) She asked if the train had left.
b) Do you know if the train has left?
c) He wondered if the train left on time.
d) They wanted to know if the train had left.
15. I can't understand ____.
- a) why haven't they replied yet
b) why they not replied yet
c) why they haven't replied yet
d) why have they not replied yet
16. Do you have any idea ____?
- a) how did the accident happen
b) how the accident happen
c) how happened the accident
d) how the accident happened
17. I'm curious ____.
- a) what they are going to announce
b) what are they going to announce
c) what they going to announce
d) what going to announce they are
18. Could you find out ____?
- a) can the doctor see me today
b) whether the doctor can see me today
c) whether can the doctor see me today
d) whether the doctor see me today can
19. Choose the correct sentence.
- a) Please let me know when will the results be available.
b) Please let me know when the results available will be.
c) Please let me know when the results will be available.
d) Please let me know when will be the results available.
20. The teacher asked _____. (reported question — past tense shift needed)
- a) whether had anyone finished the test
b) whether anyone finished had the test
c) whether anyone has finished the test
d) whether anyone had finished the test



Answers

1. c) where the meeting will be held
2. b) how long she has been waiting
3. a) what she would have done
4. d) why the flight has been delayed
5. c) I wonder what time the concert starts.
6. a) Could you tell me where the nearest ATM is?
7. b) where I had been
8. d) Do you know how much it costs?
9. a) who could have taken my umbrella
10. b) whether the project had been completed
11. c) when the problem started
12. d) why the system isn't working
13. a) I wonder where he went.
14. b) Do you know if the train has left?
15. c) why they haven't replied yet
16. d) how the accident happened
17. a) what they are going to announce
18. b) whether the doctor can see me today
19. c) Please let me know when the results will be available.
20. d) whether anyone had finished the test



Explanations

1. “where the meeting will be held” (c)

In indirect questions with passive voice, keep statement order: 'where the meeting will be held' (not 'where will the meeting be held'). The modal 'will' stays after the subject.

2. “how long she has been waiting” (b)

With present perfect continuous, keep statement order: 'how long she has been waiting' (not 'how long has she been waiting'). The auxiliary 'has' stays after the subject.

3. “what she would have done” (a)

In indirect questions with perfect modals, keep statement order: 'what she would have done' (not 'what would she have done'). The full modal 'would have' stays after the subject.

4. “why the flight has been delayed” (d)

With present perfect passive, keep statement order: 'why the flight has been delayed' (not 'why has the flight been delayed'). The auxiliary 'has' stays after the subject.

5. “I wonder what time the concert starts.” (c)

Use statement order with -s: 'what time the concert starts'. The sentence ends with a period because 'I wonder' is a statement, not a question.

6. “Could you tell me where the nearest ATM is?” (a)

Use statement word order: 'where the nearest ATM is' (not 'where is the nearest ATM'). The sentence ends with a question mark because 'Could you tell me...?' is a question.

7. “where I had been” (b)

In reported questions, the tense shifts back: 'have been' becomes 'had been'. Also use statement word order: 'She asked me where I had been.'

8. “Do you know how much it costs?” (d)

Remove 'does' and add -s to the verb: 'how much it costs'. The sentence ends with a question mark because 'Do you know...?' is a question.

9. “who could have taken my umbrella” (a)

When 'who' is the subject, the word order stays the same in indirect questions: 'who could have taken my umbrella'. The modal + perfect structure follows the subject naturally.

10. “whether the project had been completed” (b)

In reported yes/no questions, use 'whether' + statement order with tense shift: 'whether the project had been completed'. The reporting verb 'wanted' triggers past perfect.

11. “when the problem started” (c)

After 'Nobody knows', use statement word order: 'when the problem started' (not 'when did the problem start'). Remove 'did' and use the past tense form.

12. “why the system isn't working” (d)

In negative indirect questions, keep the negative with the subject in statement order: 'why the system isn't working' (not 'why isn't the system working').

13. “I wonder where he went.” (a)

When the introductory phrase is a statement ('I wonder'), the sentence ends with a period. Only use a question mark when the outer clause is a question (e.g., 'Do you know...?').

14. “Do you know if the train has left?” (b)

'Do you know if the train has left?' is an indirect question — it asks politely in the present tense. The others are reported questions with past tense reporting verbs (asked, wondered, wanted to know) and tense shifts.

15. “why they haven't replied yet” (c)

In indirect questions, keep statement order with the negative: 'why they haven't replied yet' (not 'why haven't they replied yet'). The subject comes before the auxiliary.

16. “how the accident happened” (d)

Remove 'did' and use the past tense form: 'how the accident happened' (not 'how did the accident happen'). Statement word order puts the subject before the verb.

17. “what they are going to announce” (a)

After 'I'm curious', use statement order: 'what they are going to announce' (not 'what are they going to announce'). The auxiliary 'are' stays after the subject.

18. “whether the doctor can see me today” (b)

Use 'whether' + statement order: 'whether the doctor can see me today'. The modal 'can' stays after the subject 'the doctor'.

19. “Please let me know when the results will be available.” (c)

After 'Please let me know', use statement order: 'when the results will be available'. This is a polite request, so it ends with a period.

20. “whether anyone had finished the test” (d)

In reported questions, use 'whether' + statement order with tense shift (has finished → had finished): 'whether anyone had finished the test'. The reporting verb 'asked' triggers past tense shift.