

Questions no one knows the answers to

1. Write one question for each answer. Ask about the underlined section.

a) Who did you go on holiday with?

I went on holiday with my parents.

b) Where is the train station?

The train station is in front of the supermarket.

c) Why haven't you done your homework?

I haven't done my homework because I wasn't feeling well.

d) When is your company going to develop a new system?

My company is going to develop a new system next year.

e) What would you like to study in the future?

I would like to study medicine in the future.

f) Do you like watching comedies?

Yes, I really like watching comedies.

2. Study the following sentences and introductory phrases given below.

DIRECT QUESTION	INDIRECT QUESTION
<u>Where can I find</u> the nearest post office?	Can you tell me <u>where I can find</u> the nearest post office?
<u>Do you want to go</u> to the cinema tonight?	I wonder <u>if/whether you want to go</u> to the cinema tonight?

INTRODUCTORY PHRASES:

I wonder...

Can you tell me...

Do you know...

Let me know...

I was wondering...

Explain...

Tell me...

I'm not sure...

Please tell me...

I would like to know...

Could you tell me...

Do you have any idea...

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3. Rewrite the questions from ex. 1 using various introductory phrases.

- a) (Students' own ideas)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)

4. Work in pairs. Ask each other indirect questions connected with the given topics.

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|-----------|---------------|
| FUTURE | WORK |
| FREE TIME | TECHNOLOGY |
| SHOPPING | ENTERTAINMENT |
| EDUCATION | CHILDHOOD |



5. Discuss the questions.

- Can you give some examples of the types of questions children often ask?
- Do you know any questions which cannot be answered?

6. Watch a [video](https://youtu.be/C9vnuaPGxrg) [https://youtu.be/C9vnuaPGxrg] and write down three questions the speaker asks.

- a)
- b)
- c)

How would you answer these questions?

7. Imagine that you are a parent and your child asks you a lot of difficult questions. Try to answer the following questions.

- a) Why are pizza boxes square when the pizza is round?
- b) Does the President have to pay taxes?
- c) Why do donuts have holes?
- d) Why is the sea salty?
- e) How does Santa Claus get down the chimney?

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Below you'll find an alternative final task. Instead of questions children would ask, you have some crazy job interview questions. Ask students to try to figure out the answers to these questions. Below you will see what the real/best answers are.

- **Imagine that you are asked the following questions during a job interview.**

How would you answer them?

- a) Why are manhole covers round?
- b) How many times in one day do a clock's hands overlap?
- c) If you were shrunk to a size of a dime and put in a blender which starts in 60 seconds, how would you get out?
- d) What do you think of garden gnomes?
- e) Can you give 5 uses for a stapler without staples?

Answers:

- a) This makes it impossible to take out a manhole cover and throw it inside. This way people will not end up falling inside sewers, however, nothing stops people from pulling the manhole aside and creating a falling hazard.
- b) The answer is 22, but it's more important to try to figure it out.
- c) There is no good answer to this question. The best option is to try to damage the electric motor.
- d) This question is designed to be funny and the answer should be fun as well, but think about how your answer can relate to the position you applied for. For example, you could say that you admire their reliability as they often stay rooted to the same spot. If you were going for an engineering or construction role you could question whether they have the right tools for the job and so on.
- e) 1) paper weight 2) door stop 3) hammer 4) nut cracker 5) stress reliever, etc.

SEE THE ROLE PLAY ON THE NEXT PAGES.

It will allow students to use indirect questions in a real-life situation and is based on authentic material.

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STUDENT A

1. Read the job ad below. You've decided to apply for the job and want to call to ask for more information before an interview. Write down a few questions you'd like to ask. Remember to sound polite!

**THE BEST
JOB IN THE
WORLD.**

**Island Caretaker:
Islands of the Great Barrier Reef,
Australia.**

Full-time, live-in position with flexible hours. AU\$150,000 for a six-month contract. Accommodation provided – luxury home on Hamilton Island, over-looking Australia's famous Great Barrier Reef. Responsibilities: • Explore the islands and report back • Clean the pool • Feed the fish • Collect the mail. Apply to Tourism Queensland at islandreefjob.com

Anyone can apply.*

*Refer to the Terms and Conditions at islandreefjob.com

**TOURISM
QUEENSLAND**

- 1.
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- 2.
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- 2. Now, compare your questions with another student and check if their questions are grammatically correct.
- 3. Call Tourism Queensland and ask about the job to get more information. Note down any extra details you receive and try to get invited for a job interview.

NOTES:

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STUDENT B

1. You represent Tourism Queensland and posted the job ad below. You expect to have a lot of people calling. Write down questions you will want to ask potential candidates before inviting them for an interview. Remember to sound polite!

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**TOURISM
QUEENSLAND**

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2. Now, compare your questions with another student and check if their questions are grammatically correct.
3. When someone calls, answer their questions about the job and find out all the necessary information you want. Note down any extra details you receive, and invite them for a job interview if you are interested.

NOTES: