

At the airport ✈

Immigration officer	Good morning, sir.
Jack Wilson	Good morning.
Officer	Welcome to the United States. May I see your passport, please?
Jack	Yes, certainly.
Officer	Thank you. <i>Can you tell me</i> which flight you arrived on, Mr. Wilson?
Jack	Yes. The Air France flight coming from Paris.
Officer	I see. Could you tell me how long you'll be staying in the United States, sir?
Jack	Three weeks.
Officer	Do you have a return ticket?
Jack	Yes, I do – on 14 July. Would you like to see the ticket?
Officer	No, that's OK. <i>Could you tell me</i> what the purpose of your visit is?
Jack	I'm a student, I'm visiting my host family.
Officer	<i>May I ask</i> where you will stay, sir?
Jack	At their apartment in Manhattan.
Officer	Will you visit any other cities during your stay?
Jack	Yes, we will probably travel a bit. I'd like to see Washington DC.
Officer	OK. Thank you, Mr. Wilson. Enjoy your stay.

LEARN THIS!

Indirect questions

Where **do you live?** → Can you tell me where **you live?**

Can you tell me ...

Could you tell me ...

Do you know ...

May I ask ...

Match the questions (1 – 7) with the answers (a – g)

1. Could you tell me where you're flying to, madam?
2. Could you tell me if you're flying alone?
3. Can you tell me how many bags you have?
4. Could you tell me if you packed your bag yourself?
5. May I ask if anyone gave you anything to carry?
6. Can you tell me what you will take on the plane?
7. May I ask if you're carrying any liquids?

- a) Yes, I did.
- b) No, not in my hand luggage.
- c) Yes, I'm flying to Bristol.
- d) No, they didn't.
- e) Yes, I'm on my own.
- f) Yes, I've got one piece of hand luggage.
- g) Just one.

Match the indirect questions with the direct questions

1. Can you tell me the distance from your apartment to the centre?
2. Do you know the time it takes to get there ?
3. May I ask you the number of children there are in your family ?
4. Could you tell me the age of your children ?
5. May I ask you the activities we're going to do together?
6. Could you tell me the time you'll be picking me up at the airport ?

- a) How long does it take to get there ?
- b) What time will you pick me up at the airport ?
- c) How old are your children ?
- d) How far is your apartment from the centre?
- e) How many children are there in your family?
- f) What activities are we going to do together ?



SPEAKING TIP!

We usually use indirect questions when we want to sound more polite.