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Indirect Questions in German Grammar

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Class Objective

I will be able to understand “Indirect Questions in German Grammar”.

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Concept A : Introduction

Indirect questions are questions that are included within the structure of another sentence. **Because indirect questions are dependent clauses** (nebensätze in German), we have to change the position of the verb, Indirect questions follow certain introductory phrases, see the examples below. They often end with a full stop and not a question mark.

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Concept A : Introduction

Examples:

- Ich weiß nicht,....
- Er fragt,....
- Ich verstehe nicht,...
- Sie möchte wissen,.....
- Ich sage dir nicht,....
- Können Sie mir sagen,....?

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Concept B: Word order in Indirect Questions

The sentence structure of indirect questions in German grammar differs from that of normal **questions**. In **in-direct questions**, the finite verb is placed at the end of the sentence. The rule for word in indirect questions is

question-word + subject + object + verb

Example:

Wann hat er Zeit? - Ich weiß nicht, wann er Zeit hat.

Was hat sie gesagt? - Ich sage dir nicht , was sie gesagt hat.

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Indirect Questions with ob

If there's no question word, we can use **ob** to introduce in the indirect question.

Example:

Kommt sie morgen? - Er fragt, ob sie morgen kommt.

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