

Grammar in Context: Asking Questions

Being an informed customer involves asking questions before purchasing a product or service. You can ask a direct question, such as a *wh*-question (using *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, *how*) or a *yes/no* question. For example, *Do you have any in stock?* or *How much does it cost?*

You can also ask similar questions in an indirect way. Indirect (embedded) questions can sound more polite, more formal and less demanding than direct questions. For example:

Direct

Do you have any in stock?
How much does it cost?

Indirect

Can you tell me if you have any in stock?
Can you tell me how much it costs?

ex 1

1 Complete the chart below by writing direct and indirect questions for each situation.

	Direct Question	Indirect Question
Ask about the person in charge	Who is the person in charge?	Can you tell me who the person in charge is?
Ask about available dress colours		
Ask about possible times the technician can come to your house		
Ask about the location of the nearest store		
Ask about reasons a serviceman hasn't arrived yet		
Ask how often the car should be serviced		

ex 2

NOW RE-WRITE THE INDIRECT QUESTIONS BUT USE DIFFERENT MODALS/ SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Example :Can you tell me who the person in charge is?

May I know/ I would like to know/ Would you mind telling me/ Would it be possible to know..