

Indirect questions exercise

An indirect question is not a question at all. In a direct question, the auxiliary verb comes before the subject. However, in an indirect question, the auxiliary verb comes after the subject. What's more, an indirect question ends with a full stop, not a question mark.

Read the following sentences.

Direct question: *Where are you going?*

Indirect question: *I want to know where you are going.* (NOT *I want to know where are you going?*)

Direct question: *When do you intend to leave?*

Indirect question: *I want to know when you intend to leave.* (NOT *I want to know when do you intend to leave?*)

Change the following direct questions into indirect questions using the introductory clauses given.

1. I would like to know what

.....

are your plans

your plans are

2. She wondered why to sign the papers.

did I refuse

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I refused

3. Tell me what by that.

did you mean

you mean

4. Can you tell me whether
..... dependable?

he is

is he

5. He wants to know why
like him.

doesn't she

she doesn't

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6. She asked me what
then.

did I

I did

7. He asked me why
crying.

I was

was I

Answers

1. I would like to know *what your plans are*.
2. She wondered *why I refused to sign the papers*.
3. Tell me *what you mean by that*.
4. Can you tell me *whether he is dependable?*
5. He wants to know *why she doesn't like him*.

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6. She asked me what I did then.

7. He asked me why I was crying.