

# At the airport: exchanging information

- 1 (3.07) Listen and complete the dialogue with the phrases in the box.

Can you tell me ... Could you tell me ...  
Do you know ... May I ask ...  
Would you mind telling me ...



**Immigration officer** Good morning, sir.  
**Jack Wilson** Good morning.  
**Officer** May I see your passport, please?  
**Jack** Yes, certainly.  
**Officer** Thank you. <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ which flight you arrived on, Mr Wilson?  
**Jack** Yes. The British Airways flight from Heathrow.  
**Officer** I see. <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ how long you'll be staying in the United States, sir?  
**Jack** Three weeks.  
**Officer** You have a return flight, don't you?  
**Jack** Yes, I do – on 14 July. Would you like to see the ticket?  
**Officer** No, that's OK. <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ what the purpose of your visit is?  
**Jack** Yes, I'm visiting relatives. My uncle lives here.  
**Officer** <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ where you'll be staying, sir?  
**Jack** At his house in Boston.  
**Officer** <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ if you'll be visiting any other cities during your stay?  
**Jack** We'll probably be travelling round a bit. I'd like to see New York.  
**Officer** OK. Thank you, Mr Wilson. Enjoy your stay.

- 2 Match these direct questions with the indirect questions in the dialogue.

Will you be visiting any other cities during your stay?  
Which flight did you arrive on?  
Where will you be staying?  
What is the purpose of your visit?  
How long will you be staying in the United States?

- 3 Compare the indirect questions in the dialogue with the direct questions in exercise 2. Choose the correct words to complete the rules in the *Learn this!* box.

LEARN THIS!

## Indirect questions

- If there is not a question word (*who, when, etc.*), we use *if / how*.
- The word order and verb forms in an indirect question are the same as in a *direct question / statement*.

●●● Grammar Reference: page 108

- 4 (3.08) Listen. Where are the people? Write the number of the dialogue next to each place.

check-in desk ☐  
airport information desk ☐  
tourist information desk ☐

- 5 (3.08) Put the words in the correct order. Then listen again and check. Which are indirect questions?

- you / me / Can / where / I / should / in / tell / check / ?
- know / which / Do / are / flying / airline / you / with / you / ?
- you / Have / if / the / on / time / any / idea / flight / is / ?
- if / wonder / could / you / help / me / I / ?
- how / many / Could / nights / you'll / be / you / tell / me / staying / ?
- please / I / have / your / and passport / May / ticket / ?
- you / me / if / you / check / in / Can / have / any / bags / tell / to / ?
- have / I / a / please / window / seat / Could / ?

## Speaking tip

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

- 6 Read the *Speaking tip*. Then make the questions into indirect questions.

- Where's the nearest post office?
- Do the buses run all night?
- How old are you?
- What's your friend's name?
- How much did you pay for your watch?
- Why are you here?

- 7 Work in pairs. Prepare a dialogue for the situation below. Use indirect questions to make the questions more polite.

A passenger is at the information desk and wants to know

- the best way to get into town.
- how far it is.
- how much the journey will cost.
- where to buy a ticket.

The information clerk answers all the questions and asks

- how quickly the passenger needs to get into town.
- if the passenger needs information about hotels.

- 8 Act out your dialogue to the class.

●●●●● Workbook Functions Bank: page 89