EXPRESS CHECK

Unscramble these words to complete the indirect question.

why • he • job • his • quit • had

He asked him _____

Grammar Explanations	Examples

1. Use *if*, *whether*, or *whether or not* to form **indirect *yes/no* questions**.

USAGE NOTE: *Whether* is more formal than *if*.

DIRECT SPEECH
■ **"Can you type?"** she asked.
INDIRECT SPEECH
■ She asked *if I could type*.
■ She asked *whether (or not) I could type*.

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2. In **indirect *yes/no* questions**, the subject comes before the verb, the same as in <u>statement word order</u>.

Because of the statement word order, <u>do not use *do*, *does*, or *did*</u> to form indirect questions.

DIRECT SPEECH
■ **"Can I start** tomorrow?"
INDIRECT SPEECH
■ He asked *if he could start* tomorrow.
  NOT He asked ~~could he start~~ tomorrow.

DIRECT SPEECH
■ **"Does the job provide** benefits?"
INDIRECT SPEECH
■ He asked *if the job provided* benefits.
  NOT He asked ~~does the job provide~~ benefits.

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3. Use **question words** to form **indirect *wh-* questions**.

DIRECT SPEECH
■ **"Where is your office**?" I asked.
INDIRECT SPEECH
■ I asked *where* his office was.

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4. In **indirect *wh-* questions**, the subject also comes before the verb <u>as in statements</u>, and you <u>do not use *do*, *does*, or *did*</u>.

In **indirect *wh-* questions about the subject**, the <u>question word is the subject</u> and the verb follows as in <u>statement word order</u>.

DIRECT SPEECH
"**Why did you leave** your job?"
INDIRECT SPEECH
■ She asked me *why I had left* my job.
  NOT She asked me ~~why did I leave my job~~.

DIRECT SPEECH
■ Bob asked, "**Who got** the job?"
INDIRECT SPEECH
■ Bob asked *who* had gotten the job.

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5. **Indirect questions** often end in a **period**, <u>not a question mark</u>.

■ I asked *why I didn't get the job*.
  NOT I asked ~~why didn't I get the job?~~

Check it out! For a list of common verbs used to report questions, see Appendix 13 on page 340.