

## Episode 069 – Grammar

### Posing "W" questions as indirect questions

Indirect questions - also called interrogative content clauses - are subordinate clauses that serve as the object in a main clause. Usually they are the object of a verb of telling, knowing or questioning. As a form of "W" questions, they begin with a question word.

Indirect questions can be turned into direct questions that also contain a question word. An indirect question using the subjunctive II construction sounds more polite than a direct question.

Examples:

Indirect question: *Könnten Sie mir sagen, wo Ostrowski arbeitet?* (*Könnten Sie **es** mir sagen.*)

Direct question: *Sagen Sie mir bitte: "Wo arbeitet Ostrowski?"*

Indirect question: *Ich möchte nur wissen, wo Ostrowski arbeitet.* (*Ich möchte **es** nur wissen.*)

Direct question: *Ich möchte wissen: "Wo arbeitet Ostrowski?"*