



MIXED (WRONG)	Tricia asked who was driving <b>your</b> car. (The reader's car?)
DIRECT QUESTION	Who <b>is</b> studying for the test <b>tonight</b> ?
STATEMENT	C.J. <b>is</b> studying for the test <b>tonight</b> .
MIXED (WRONG)	Madison asked who <b>is</b> studying for the test <b>tonight</b> . (The studying and the night are both in the past when the sentence is written)

If you want to combine a statement and one of these questions in the same sentence, you can either:

**Present the question as an exact quotation**, so the statement just identifies the speaker:

MIXED (WRONG)	<u>Sammy asked</u> <u>what was the answer.</u> <i>statement</i> <i>unquoted direct question</i>
OK	<u>Sammy asked,</u> " <u>What was the answer?</u> " <i>statement</i> <i>quoted direct question</i>

**Reword the question into an indirect question.** Indirect questions always end with periods—never question marks. You can create an indirect question by

**Changing the word order and adding “if” or “whether.”** If the original question put the verb before the subject, reverse them. Your new sentence will be a statement: the subject comes before the verb.

DIRECT QUESTION	<b>Was Angela</b> late for class? v      s
STATEMENT	<b>Angela was</b> late for class. s      v
MIXED (WRONG)	Chelsea wondered <b>was Angela</b> late for class. v      s
OK: INDIRECT	Chelsea wondered <b>if Angela was</b> late for class. s      v

**Changing the pronouns and verb tense.**

DIRECT QUESTION	Who is going to the party with <b>you</b> ?
DIRECT QUOTATION	Mom asked, “Who is going to the party with <b>you</b> ?”
MIXED (WRONG)	Mom asked who <b>is</b> going to the party with <b>you</b> .
OK: INDIRECT	Mom asked <b>who was</b> going to the party with <b>me</b> .

**Does the question mark go inside or outside the quotation marks?** It depends on how much—and what part—of your sentence is a question.

**QUESTION**

Who wrote the line, “’tis better to have loved and lost”?

The whole sentence is a question, so it ends with a question mark after the quotation. The quotation is actually **not** a question, so the question mark isn’t part of it.

**STATEMENT**

Justin asked Candace, “how do I open the box?”

The main sentence is a statement, not a question Justin asked Candace something. That means that there can’t be a question mark that applies to the sentence as a whole. The quotation, however, is a question, so the question mark is part of it. Since you can’t usually have a question mark and a period, this sentence ends after the closing quotation mark.

If, however, you’re using a parenthetical citation style like MLA, put the citation after the closing quotation mark and a period at the end.

Justin asked Candace, “how do I open the box?” (Wilcox 43).

## ■ Practice

Make any necessary corrections in the following sentences.

1. They want to know are you going to the movies.
2. She wondered “why does this always happen to me.”
3. Some critics think the story asks, “Can we love twice” (Smith 34)?
4. He said I need to know who is going to the store with me.
5. She will wonder did I do the homework.
6. We did believe he was telling the truth.
7. He asked would I be at the meeting.
8. My dad asked how are you getting there?
9. Tony wanted to know what did I think about the game.
10. Her motto is “If not me, then who? If not now, then when”?

## ■ Possible Answers

1. They want to know **if you are** going to the movies.
2. She wondered “why does this always happen to me?”
3. Some critics think the story asks, “Can we love twice?” (Smith 34).
4. He said, “I need to know who is going to the store with me.”
5. She will wonder **if I did** the homework.
6. We did believe he was telling the truth. (No change)
7. He asked **whether I would be** at the meeting.
8. My dad asked **how we were** getting there.
9. Tony wanted to know **what I thought** about the game.
10. Her motto is “If not me, then who? If not now, then when”?

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