

**Intermediate 3**  
**Unit 1 Grammar**  
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## Reporting Yes/No Questions

**Point:**

When we report yes/no questions indirectly, we use a noun clause which begins with the conjunction "if" or "whether".

if = whether = کہ آیا

**Direct Speech:** The teacher asked the students, "Have you studied hard for the exam?"

**Indirect Speech:** The teacher asked the students if they had studied hard for the exam.

**Indirect Speech:** The teacher asked the students whether they had studied hard for the exam.

**Direct Speech:** Sally asked the tourist, "Are you from Japan?"

**Indirect Speech:** Sally asked the tourist if he was from Japan.

**Indirect Speech:** Sally asked the tourist whether he was from Japan.

**Important Point:**

When we report a question, we can't use the reporting verbs "tell" or "say". We have to use "ask" or its synonyms like "wonder" or "inquire".

Example:

The secretary ..... me if I was 44 years old, but I didn't like to talk about my age.

- a) told      b) said      c) asked      d) spoke

The Answer: c

**Very Important Point:**

We can use "or not" immediately after "whether" but not after "if".

**Don't Say:** The sheriff asked the stranger if or not he wanted to stay in town.

**Say:** The sheriff asked the stranger if he wanted to stay in town or not.

**Say:** The sheriff asked the stranger whether he wanted to stay in town or not.

**Say:** The sheriff asked the stranger whether or not he wanted to stay in town.

**Sample Final Exam Question:**

Tom asked Mary ..... or not she would go shopping.

- a) if      b) whether      c) that      d) what

The Answer: b

## More Examples for the Use of “If” & “Whether” in Reported Speech:

### Using "If"

- **Introduction of Yes/No Questions:**
  - Example:
    - Direct: "Are you coming to the party?"
    - Reported: She asked if I was coming to the party.
- **Alternative Questions:**
  - Example:
    - Direct: "Do you want tea or coffee?"
    - Reported: She asked if I wanted tea or coffee.

### Using "Whether"

- **Introduction of Yes/No Questions:**
  - Example:
    - Direct: "Is it raining?"
    - Reported: She asked whether it was raining.
- **Formal Writing:** "Whether" is often used in more formal writing or speech.
  - Example:
    - Direct: "Are you available?"
    - Reported: He inquired whether I was available.
- **Expressing Alternatives Explicitly:**
  - Example:
    - Direct: "Will you go by train or by car?"
    - Reported: She wondered whether I would go by train or by car.

**Source:**

[Intermediate 3 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)