# Practical English Unexpected events

indirect questions

## 1 D JENNY GETS A SURPRISE

- a ①9.21 Watch or listen. How do you think Jenny and Rob feel at the end?
- b Watch or listen again and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false). Correct the F sentences.
  - 1 Jenny didn't expect Paul to be there.
  - 2 Paul tells Jenny that Rob is planning to stay in New York.
  - 3 Rob arrives with croissants for breakfast.
  - 4 Paul lies to Jenny about Rob's plans.
  - 5 Rob insists that he's serious about Jenny.
  - 6 Rob says he will drive Paul to Boston.





## 2 INDIRECT QUESTIONS

a ①9.22 Watch or listen to Rob and Jenny talking in the office. Do they resolve their problems?



- **b** Watch or listen again and answer the questions.
  - 1 What reason does Rob give for Paul being in his apartment?
  - 2 How does Rob know that Paul is really leaving?
  - 3 Why doesn't Jenny believe that Rob wants to stay in New York?
  - 4 According to Jenny, how did Rob behave when he was with Paul?
  - 5 What does Jenny think about their relationship?
- c ①9.23 Look at some extracts from the conversation. Can you remember any of the missing words? Watch or listen and check.
  - Jenny Could you \_\_\_\_\_\_ me why Paul is still in your apartment?
    Rob Well, he couldn't get a ticket to Boston...
    Jenny Do you \_\_\_\_\_ if he's got one now?
    Rob I bought it! He's leaving this evening.
    Jenny Look Rob, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ to know what you really want.
    Rob What do you mean?
    Jenny I \_\_\_\_\_ if you really want to be here. I wonder if...
    Rob Jenny, what is it?
    Don I need a word. \_\_\_\_\_ you tell me what you decided at the last meeting?
    Jenny Right away, Don. Rob was just leaving.
- d **9.24** Watch or listen and repeat the highlighted phrases. Copy the <u>rhy</u>thm and intonation.
- e Practice the conversations in  $\mathbf{c}$  with a partner.

#### Indirect questions

We often put Can / Could you tell me...?, Do you know...?, I'd like to know..., I wonder... before a question to make it less direct and more polite. When we do this, the direct question changes to an affirmative sentence, i.e., the word order is (question word / if / whether) + subject + verb and we don't use do / did in the present and the past.

#### Compare:

Why is Paul in your apartment?
Could you tell me why Paul is still in your apartment?

Has he got one now?

Do you know if (or whether) he's got one now?

What do you really want?

I'd like to know what you really want.

Do you really want to be here?

I wonder **if** (or **whether**) **you really want** to be here.

What did you decide at the last meeting? Can you tell me what you decided at the last meeting?

f Read the information about indirect questions. Then make questions 1–5 more indirect by using the beginnings given.

1	Where's the bus station?				
	Excuse me, can you tell me				

- 2 What did he say?
  I'd like to know \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Does she like me?
  I wonder
- 4 Is your brother coming tonight?
- Do you know \_\_\_\_\_?

  5 What time does the store close?

Could you tell me \_\_\_\_\_

g Communication Asking politely for information A p.110 B p.114 Practice indirect questions.

### 3 POB GETS SERIOUS

a ①9.25 Do you think there's going to be a happy ending? Watch or listen to Rob and Jenny and check.



- **b** Watch or listen again and complete the sentences with no more than four words.
  - 1 Rob is trying to convince Jenny that he \_\_\_\_\_\_.
    2 Jenny says that she's sure that Rob wants to \_\_\_\_\_\_.
    3 Rob says that he loves his \_\_\_\_\_\_.
    4 Jenny and Rob are going to visit \_\_\_\_\_\_.
    5 Rob promises not to forget \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- c Look at the **Social English** phrases. Can you remember any of the missing words?

6 Rob asks Jenny to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

9	So	Social English				
	1	Jenny	lt's	you want to go back.		
	2	Rob	Of	I miss London, but I love		
			my life here.			
	3	Rob	And I won't forget the chocolates this			
			time			
	4	Jenny	Well, that's a start,			
	5	Rob	if I proposed to you?			
	6	Jenny	Rob,	<u>it</u> . It's embarrassing.		

- d ①9.26 Watch or listen and complete the phrases. Then watch or listen again and repeat.
- e Complete conversations A–F with **Social English** phrases 1–6. Then practice them with a partner.

Α	Are you sure you want to come out with me tonight?	I want to come. I'm looking forward to it.	
В	Ten times one is ten, ten times two is twenty, ten times three is	Please	
С	What should I get, spinach or cauliflower?	Actually, I don't like spinach, and I don't really like cauliflower. How about broccoli?	
D	When's the best day for us to meet?	Tomorrow or Thursday,  . You decide.	
Е	I still can't decide which restaurant to book.	we stayed at home and got takeout?	
F	Do you think we could leave now? I'm really tired.	OK. you're really not enjoying the party.	

#### CAN YOU...?

- make indirect questions, e.g., beginning with Can you tell me...?
- discuss a problem