

### 138. INDEFINITE RELATIVES AND DIRECT AND INDIRECT INTERROGATIVES

Corresponding to the indefinite relative/indirect interrogative *ὅστις, ἥτις, ὅτι* are several adjectives which serve the same two functions. These are listed in the right-hand column below. Direct interrogative forms are listed in the left-hand column.

When used as *indefinite relative* pronouns or adjectives, these words have a meaning which includes the element “-ever”: e.g., “*whoever*,” “*whichever*.” When used as *indirect interrogative* pronouns or adjectives, these words have the same meaning as the direct interrogative but are used to introduce indirect questions.

#### *DIRECT INTERROGATIVE*

*τίς, τί*  
who?, what?

*ποῖος, ποῖᾶ, ποῖον*  
of what sort?

*πόσος, πόση, πόσον*  
how much/many?

*πότερος, ποτέρᾳ, πότερον*  
which (of two)?

#### *INDEFINITE RELATIVE/ INDIRECT INTERROGATIVE*

*ὅστις, ἥτις, ὅτι*  
whoever, whatever  
who?, what?

*ὅποῖος, ὅποῖᾶ, ὅποῖον*  
of whatever sort  
of what sort?

*ὅπόσος, ὅπόση, ὅπόσον*  
however much/many  
how much/many?

*ὅπότερος, ὅποτέρᾳ, ὅπότερον*  
whichever (of two)  
which (of two)?

*Compare the chart of correlative pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs included in the Vocabulary, pages 530–31.*

### 139. INDEFINITE, RELATIVE, AND INTERROGATIVE ADVERBS

Many adverbs have three forms: direct interrogative, indefinite (enclitic), and indefinite relative/indirect interrogative.

<i>DIRECT INTERROGATIVE</i>	<i>INDEFINITE (enclitic)</i>	<i>INDEFINITE RELATIVE INDIRECT INTERROGATIVE</i>
<i>πόθεν</i> from where?, whence?	<i>ποθέν</i> from somewhere	<i>δπόθεν</i> from wherever from where?, whence?
<i>ποῖ</i> to where?, whither?	<i>ποῖ</i> to some place	<i>ὅποι</i> to wherever to where?, whither?
<i>πότε</i> when?	<i>ποτέ</i> at some time, ever	<i>ὅποτε</i> whenever when?
<i>ποῦ</i> where?	<i>που</i> somewhere	<i>ὅπου</i> wherever where?
<i>πῶς</i> how?	<i>πως</i> somehow	<i>ὅπως</i> however how?

Observation: The indefinite relative/indirect interrogative *ὅπως* must be distinguished from the conjunction *ὅπως* which introduces purpose clauses and object clauses of effort.

Compare the chart of correlative pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs included in the Vocabulary, pages 530–31.

#### 140. INDIRECT QUESTION

A question, like a statement, can be quoted either directly or indirectly. Direct quotation preserves the speaker's original words, which in English are set off by quotation marks. But indirect quotation, or **indirect question**, incorporates the original words into a complex sentence.

He asks, "What are they doing?" (direct quotation)  
He asks **what they are doing**. (indirect question)

The main verb which introduces an indirect question can be not only a verb of asking, but also a verb of knowing, learning, perceiving, etc. (e.g., "I learned what they were doing.").

While there are three different ways of expressing indirect statement, THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY OF EXPRESSING INDIRECT QUESTION: FINITE VERB INTRODUCED BY AN INDIRECT INTERROGATIVE WORD.

The rules for indirect question are the same as those for indirect statement with a finite verb introduced by *ὅτι* or *ὥς*:

When the introductory verb is in a primary tense, all verbs in the indirect question retain their original mood and tense.

When the introductory verb is in a secondary tense, all indicative verbs of the original question

EITHER are changed to the corresponding tense of the optative  
OR remain unchanged (*retained indicative*).

In addition, all direct interrogative words of the original question are usually changed to the corresponding *indirect interrogative* words (cf. Sections 138, 139).

The particle *ἄρα* remains unchanged.

If the original question has no interrogative word, the indirect question is introduced by the particle *εἰ*, “whether, if.”

If a question includes two alternatives, these are introduced in an indirect question by the following introductory words, each pair of which means “whether . . . or”:

*πότερον . . . ἢ*  
*εἴτε . . . εἴτε*  
*εἰ . . . εἴτε*

The negative of the original question is preserved in an indirect question.

Here are examples of direct and indirect questions:

*τίς εἶ;* (original question)  
Who are you?

*ἔρωτᾷ ὅστις εἶ.* (indirect question)  
He asks who you are.

*πότερος τοῦτ' ἐποίησεν;* (original question)  
Which one did this?

*ἠρωτήσαμεν ὁπότερος τοῦτο ποιήσειεν.* (indirect question)  
We asked which one did this.

*Εὐριπίδης σοφός ἐστιν;* (original question)  
Is Euripides wise?

*ἔρωτήσεται εἰ Εὐριπίδης σοφός ἐστιν.* (indirect question)  
You will ask whether (if) Euripides is wise.

ὦ βασιλεῦ, πότερον βούλει μένειν ἢ ἀπιέναι; (original question)  
King, do you wish to stay or go away?

ἠρώτᾳ τὸν βασιλέᾳ πότερον βούλοιο  
μένειν ἢ ἀπιέναι. (indirect question)

ἠρώτᾳ τὸν βασιλέᾳ εἴτε βούλοιο  
μένειν εἴτε ἀπιέναι.

ἠρώτᾳ τὸν βασιλέᾳ εἰ βούλοιο  
μένειν εἴτε ἀπιέναι.

She was asking the king whether he wanted  
to stay or go away.

πόσους ἀγγέλους πέμπεις; (original question)  
How many messengers are you sending?

ἠρώτησα ὅσους ἀγγέλους πέμπεις. (indirect question with  
I asked how many messengers you were sending. *retained indicative*)

The interrogative word of the original statement is sometimes retained:

τίνες εἰσίν; (original question)  
Who are they?

ἠρώτων αὐτοὺς τίνας εἶεν. (indirect question)  
I was asking them who they were.