

[http://pedagogie2.ac-reunion.fr/cyberprofLV/telechargements/podcaz\\_audio/anglais/90-asking\\_for\\_information.mp3](http://pedagogie2.ac-reunion.fr/cyberprofLV/telechargements/podcaz_audio/anglais/90-asking_for_information.mp3)



**PodCaz audio # 90:    Functions of English (Leo Jones)**  
**Asking for information:**  
**question techniques, answering techniques, getting more information.**

- Excuse me.
- Yes?
- I... I was wondering if you could help me.
- Well, I'll try.
- I need to find out where the ...er ... town centre is. Now I see there's a sign up there that points to the left.
- Ah well, let me see ... er ... it all depends if you're on foot or going by car.
- Ah no, I'm walking.
- Ah well, you turn to the right and then carry straight on.
- Ah, right, thanks! Er ... I wonder if you could tell me ... um ... if there's a good hotel ... er ... in town that I can use.
- Oh let me think a moment ... um ... yes, there are two hotels – they're in the High Street ...er ... one on each side of the road.
- Right, well, I expect we'll manage to find one of those. Er, I wonder if you could tell me ... er ... anything about the ... er ... castle in town ... er ... where ... where it is.
- Um, well, it's actually further on ... er ... down the High Street and then you cross over the bridge and it's on the other side of the river.
- I see, I see. Could you tell me a bit more about it? Is it interesting? Is it old?
- I'm not really sure. I've never actually been there myself. It ... yes, I think it's quite old, I think it's about .. um ... 500 years old – something like that.
- Worth ... worth visiting, you think?
- Well, it's one of the tourist attractions of the town.
- I see, I see.
- I've no idea I'm afraid. As I say, I've never been there.
- I see. Do you happen to know when it's open?
- Er ... I'm not really sure ... um ... I think it depends on ...er ... what time of year you go ... um ...as to whether it's open.
- Well, right, thank you, thank you.
- Er, excuse me, I hope you don't mind my asking, but ... um ...your voice interests me ... er ... do you mind if I ask .. er ... where you come from ?
- No, no, no. I come from Wiltshire.
- Ah!

### **1. Question techniques:**

I was wondering if you could help me. I'd like to know ...

I wonder if you could tell me ...

This may sound a stupid question, but I'd like to know ...

Excuse me, do you happen to know ...

Would you mind telling me ...

I hope you don't mind my asking, but I'd like to know...

Something else I'd like to know is ...

### **2. Answering techniques**

Well, let me see ...

Well now ...

Oh, let me think for a moment ...

I'm not sure, I'll just have to find out ...

That's a very interesting question ...

I'm not really sure.

I can't tell you off-hand, I'm afraid.

I'm terribly sorry, I really don't know.

I've no idea, I'm afraid.

I can't answer that one, but I'll tell you where you can find out.

I'd rather not answer that, if you don't mind.

### **3. Getting more information**

Could you tell me a bit more about ...?

Sorry, but I'd like to know some more about ...

I didn't quite follow what you said about ...

Sorry, that's not quite what I meant, what I really wanted to know was ...

Sorry to press you, but could you tell me ...?

Sorry, I didn't quite understand why ...