41. WORD ORDER: COMMON PROBLEMS
(Indirect questions and adjectives clauses that are not next to the noun they modify)

INDIRECT QUESTIONS

English has two kinds of questions:
- **Direct questions** – when someone asks someone else a question (*The Senator asked the President, "When will the war end?"*)
- **Indirect questions** – when you report a question that somebody else asked (*The Senator asked the President when the war would end.*)

In an **indirect question**, **the subject comes before the verb**.

EXAMPLES OF WORD ORDER FOR INDIRECT QUESTIONS	THE RULES
Correct: *Joe asked Phil who the 40th president of the U.S was.* **Incorrect:** *Joe asked Phil who was the 40th president of the U.S.*	▪ In a direct question, the verb comes before the subject, but in an indirect question, the subject comes before the verb. ▪ Do not put the verb before the subject in an indirect question.
Correct: *A woman asked the senator why he supported a higher tax on the middle class.* **Incorrect:** *A woman asked the senator why did he support a higher tax on the middle class?*	▪ Do not use the helping verbs *do, does, did* in indirect questions. ▪ Do not use a question mark at the end of an indirect question. Use a period.

ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

An adjective clause is a group of words that has the same function as an adjective: modifying (describing) a noun.

Example: *The city is trying to develop a public transportation system that is affordable and effective.*

An **adjective clause must come after the word that it modifies**, and nowhere else.

EXAMPLES OF WORD ORDER FOR ADJECTIVE CLAUSES	THE RULES
Correct: *A suspect who was armed and dangerous was apprehended by an undercover police officer.* **Incorrect:** *A suspect was apprehended by an undercover police officer who was armed and dangerous. (This sentence means that the officer was armed and dangerous, but the writer wanted to communicate that the suspect was armed and dangerous.)*	▪ An adjective clause must come after the word that it modifies, and nowhere else. ▪ If it is put somewhere else, the sentence will be confusing.