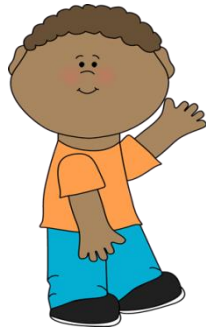


# Direct and Indirect Speech

## Changing Direct Speech to Indirect Speech

- The mode of narration of a sentence can be either in direct speech or indirect speech.
- A change in the mode of narration depends on:
  - i. the tense of the reporting verb;
  - ii. who is saying what to whom; and
  - iii. the manner of speaking, that is the speaker making a statement or an exclamation,
    - a) asking a question,
    - b) giving an order,
    - c) making a request.
- In other words, it is important to ensure that we not only capture the mood of the speaker, but also keep the meaning of the sentence the same.

### Direct Speech :



**Rahul said,**



**Roy**

## Indirect Speech :

**Rahul said that Roy was his friend.**



**Rahul**

- **Quotation marks** are used only in **direct speech**. They are not used in **indirect speech**.
- The **reporting clause** and the **reporting verb** remains the **same** in both the sentences.
- In **direct speech**, a **comma is added** after the **reporting verb**, where as in **indirect speech**, the word, **'that'** is added **after** the **reporting verb**.

Sometimes, the word 'that' may be omitted in spoken or informal English.

E.g. Maria said (that) she thought she will go out for dinner tonight.

### Change of Pronouns

- **Personal Pronouns** may have to be changed when changing the mode of narration from direct to indirect speech, to make the meaning of the report clear.
  - **Example 1:**

**Direct Speech** – Rahul said, "Roy is **my** friend."  
(first person)

**Indirect Speech** - Rahul said that Roy was **his** friend.  
(third person)

**Incorrect:** Rahul said that Roy was **my** friend.

- **Example 2:**

**Direct Speech** – Seeta said to me, "I will help **you**."  
(second person)

**Indirect Speech** -Seeta said she would help **me**.  
(first person)

- When a sentence contains **two personal pronouns**, it may be necessary to change one or both of them, depending on the sentence. The personal pronoun may also be replaced with the noun it stands for to make the sentence clear.

- Example:

**Direct Speech** – Rahul asked Fleck, “Is Roy your friend?”

**Indirect Speech** - Rahul asked Fleck whether Roy was **Fleck’s** friend.  
(his)

**Incorrect:** Rahul asked Fleck whether Roy was his friend.  
(Fleck/Rahul)

- If the **person of the pronoun**, which is the **subject** of a verb, is changed to another **person** or is replaced with a **noun**, then the **verb** must also be changed, if necessary, to agree with the subject in **person** and **number**.

- Example:

**Direct Speech** – Rahul says, “**I** am Roy’s friend.”  
(first person)

**Indirect Speech** - Rahul says that **he** is Roy’s friend.  
(third person)

- When the **reporting verb** is in the **present** or **future tense**, the **tense** of the **verb** in the report **remains the same** as that in the quote.

- Example:

1. **Direct Speech** – The teacher **says**, “He is going to the classroom.”  
(simple present)

**Indirect Speech** - The teacher says that he is going to the classroom.

2. **Direct Speech** – The teacher will say, “He went to the classroom.”  
(simple future)

**Indirect Speech** – The teacher will say that he went to the classroom.

- When the reporting verb is in the **past tense**, then the tense of the verb in the quote usually changes in indirect speech.

- Example:

**Direct Speech** – Rahul **said**, “I **play** football..”  
(simple present)

**Indirect Speech** - Rahul said that he **played** football.  
(simple past)

- We can summarize the change in the tense of the verb from direct to indirect speech in the following table with examples.

Direct Speech (tense in the quote)	Indirect Speech (tense in the report)
( <b>simple present</b> ) Rahul said, "I <b>play</b> football."	( <b>simple past</b> ) Rahul said that he <b>played</b> football.
( <b>present continuous</b> ) Rahul said, "I <b>am playing</b> football."	( <b>past continuous</b> ) Rahul said that he <b>was playing</b> football.
( <b>present perfect</b> ) Rahul said, "I <b>have played</b> football."	( <b>past perfect</b> ) Rahul said that he <b>had played</b> football.
( <b>simple past</b> ) Rahul said, "I <b>played</b> football."	( <b>simple past/past perfect</b> ) Rahul said that he <b>played/ had played</b> football.
( <b>past continuous</b> ) Rahul said, "I <b>was playing</b> football."	( <b>past perfect continuous</b> ) Rahul said that he <b>had been playing</b> football.
( <b>past perfect</b> ) Rahul said, "I <b>had played</b> football."	<b>no change</b> Rahul said that he <b>had played</b> football.

### Change of Tense

- If the quote or report says something that is **still true**, then the **tense** of the verb in the quote does not change, even if the reporting verb is in the **past tense**.
- Example:

**Direct Speech** – The scientist **said**, "There **is** gravity on earth."  
(**past tense**)(**simple present**)

**Indirect Speech** - The scientist said that there is gravity on earth.

### Changes in Adjectives and Adverbs

- Sometimes, the adjective, adverb or expression that denotes time or place, may also need to be changed when changing the mode of narration.
- Example:

**Direct Speech** – Rahul said, "I will play this game next week."

**Indirect Speech** - Rahul said that he would play that game the following week.

## Changes in Adjectives and Adverbs

Direct Speech (word in the quote)	Indirect Speech (word in the report)
this	that/the
that	those/ the
here	there
now	then
today	that day
tonight	the night
tomorrow	the next day/the following day
last night	previous night/the night before
the day after tomorrow	in two day's time
yesterday	the day before
the day before yesterday	two days before/two days ago
next week/year	the following week/year
this week/year	that week/year
last week/year	the week/year before

## Changes in:-

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### Pronouns:

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech (Reported Speech)
I, you	he, she, it
my, mine, your, yours	his, her, hers, its
we	they
their, theirs	
them	

### Tense:

Direct Speech (speaker's words)	Indirect Speech (Reporter or Listener)
<i>Present tense</i>	<i>Past tense</i>
am, is, are	was, were
make, makes	made

am / is / are eating	was / were eating
will / can / may eat	would / could / might eat
has, have	had
has / have eaten	had eaten
<b>Direct Speech (speaker's words)</b>	<b>Indirect Speech (Reporter or Listener)</b>
<i>Present tense</i>	<i>Past perfect tense</i>
was / were	had been
ate	had eaten
was / were eating	had been eating

**Expressions of time and place indicating nearness are changed into one of distance:**

<b>Direct Speech</b>	<b>Indirect Speech (Reported Speech)</b>
now	then
today	that day
tonight	that night
yesterday	the previous day / the day before
tomorrow	the next / following day
the day before yesterday	two days before
the day after tomorrow	in two days
last week	the previous week or the week before
last month	the previous month or the month before
last year	the previous year or the year before
next week / month / year	the following week / month / year
a week / month	a week / month
last night	the previous night
here	there
this / it	that
<b>these</b>	those
<b>thus</b>	so
<b>ago</b>	before

**STATEMENTS:**

<b>Kind of Sentences</b>	<b>Reporting Verbs</b>	<b>Conjunctions</b>
<b>Statement</b>	said, told, suggested, admitted, remarked	that

**Ordinary statements:**

Example:

<b>Direct Speech</b>	Rosy said, "I have a habit of reading before I go to bed".
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	Rosy said that she had a habit of reading before she went to bed.
<b>Direct Speech</b>	David said, 'Here is the pen I borrowed yesterday, John.'
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	David told John that there was the pen he had borrowed the previous day.

**A statement employing all the techniques:**

Well, very well, now, so etc.

Likewise a comment clause (parenthesis) is left out

**Example:**

<b>Direct Speech</b>	My neighbour said, "My guests arrived last evening. They are staying with us today. They will be leaving early tomorrow morning."
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	My neighbour told me that her guests had arrived the previous evening <b>and</b> they were staying with them that day <b>but</b> they would be leaving early the following morning.

**II. QUESTIONS:**

1. The question mark is omitted for a sentence in indirect speech.
  2. The reporting verb in direct speech is replaced with a word of inquiry such as ask or enquire in indirect speech.
  3. Words such as 'if' or 'whether' may be used in indirect speech.
- A question word such as who, what, when, where and so on, when used at the start of a quote in direct speech, is reported in indirect speech.
    - Example:

**Direct Speech** – Fleck said, "What is the lesson about, Zizi?"

**Indirect Speech** – Fleck asked Zizi what the lesson was about.

➤ **The reporting verbs for questions are:**

Kind of Sentences	Reporting Verbs	Conjunctions
<b>Questions (1) W/H type</b>	asked, enquired, wanted to know	if / whether
<b>Questions (2) Verbal</b>	asked, enquired, wanted	

➤ **Auxiliary questions should begin with:**

if / whether

**e.g:**

<b>Direct Speech</b>	My friend said, "Are they coming with us?"
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	My friend asked me whether they were coming with us.
<b>Direct Speech</b>	I said, "Were they angry with you?"
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	I asked him whether they had been angry with him.

<b>Direct Speech</b>	Sarah <i>said</i> to her mother, "Can the milkman <i>bring</i> milk in <i>this</i> heavy rain?"
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	Sarah asked her mother if the milkman could bring milk in that heavy rain.

➤ **Do / Does / Did Questions:**

**When using;**

do, does (present tense) - the main verb converts

into the past (does / do go -> went)

did (past tense) - the main verb converts

into past perfect. (did go -> had gone)

e.g:

<b>Direct Speech</b>	"Does David study late at night?" <i>said</i> Sonia.
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	Sonia <i>asked</i> me <i>whether</i> David studied late at night.
<b>Direct Speech</b>	Jems <i>said</i> , "Do college students <i>use</i> cellphones?"
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	Jems <i>asked me whether</i> college students used cellphones.

➤ **The question form will change into a statement form:**

"Is he here?"	Whether he was there
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➤ **W/h Questions:**

These questions begin with a question word (*Who, What, When, Why, Where, How, How long ...*). While changing such a question into reported form we do not use any conjunction.

We simply invert the word order (Verb + Subject is changed into Subject + Verb). **Do not use if/whether in W/h Questions.**

e.g:

<b>Verb + Subject</b>	She said to me, "What do you want?"
<b>Subject + Verb</b>	She asked me what I wanted.
<b>Direct Speech</b>	My neighbour <i>said</i> , "when did the men <i>catch</i> the stray dogs"
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	My neighbour <i>asked me</i> when the men <i>had caught</i> the stray dogs.
<b>Direct Speech</b>	My friend <i>said</i> , "Which colour <i>will</i> you choose?"
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	My friend <i>asked</i> me which colour <i>I would choose</i> ?
<b>Direct Speech</b>	Father <i>said</i> to mother, "Why was Angelina <i>crying</i> when she <i>returned</i> from school?"
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	father asked mother why Angelina <i>had been</i> crying when she <i>had returned</i> from school.

**Requests:**

Please - requested + whom + to + v

<b>Direct Speech</b>	The teacher said, "Please improve your knowledge."
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	The teacher <b>requested</b> the student to <b>improve</b> his knowledge.



<b>Direct Speech</b>	Robert <b>said</b> to me, "Please post <b>these</b> letters".
<b>Indirect Speech</b>	Robert <b>requested</b> me to post <b>those</b> letters.

Many modal verb forms also change:

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
<b>will</b> She said, "I'll teach English online tomorrow."	<b>would</b> She said she would teach English online tomorrow.
<b>can</b> She said, "I can teach English online."	<b>could</b> She said she could teach English online.
<b>must</b> She said, "I must have a computer to teach English online."	<b>had to</b> She said she had to have a computer to teach English online.
<b>shall</b> She said, "What shall we learn today?"	<b>should</b> She asked what we should learn today.
<b>may</b> She said, "May I open a new browser?"	<b>might</b> She asked if she might open a new browser.

### Changing the Mode of Narration for Order, Requests, or Advice

- Let's look at the rules to be followed when Changing the mode of narration for orders, requests or advice from direct to indirect speech.
  1. The **reporting verb** is replaced with a suitable verb such as order, command, request or advise. Other words like beg, forbid, warn, etc. may also be used depending on the tone of the sentence.
  2. The verb of the reported speech is changed to an **infinitive**.
- **Example – 1**

**Direct Speech** : "Help me pick up the books," **said** Zizi to Fleck.

**Indirect Speech** : Zizi **requested** Fleck **to help** her pick up the books.
- **Example – 2**

**Direct Speech** : The old man **asked** the boy, "Do not disturb me."

**Indirect Speech** : The old man **commanded** the boy not to disturb him.
- **Example –**
  1. **Indirect Speech** : Fleck **told** Zizi that he wanted to play outside.  

**Direct Speech** : Fleck **told** Zizi, "I want to play outside."
  2. **Indirect Speech** : Zizi **asked** Fleck if he wanted to read a book.  

**Direct Speech** : Zizi **said** "Fleck, do you want to read a book?"
  3. **Indirect Speech**: Fleck **requested** Zizi to explain the lesson to him.  

**Direct Speech**: Fleck **said** to Zizi, "Please explain the lesson to me."

4. **Indirect Speech:** Fleck **thanked** Zizi for explaining the lesson to him.

**Direct Speech:** Fleck **said** to Zizi, "Thank you for explaining the lesson to me."

- The rules of changing an exclamation in direct speech to indirect speech.

- Example:

**Direct Speech** – Fleck said, "Oh! I cannot understand the lesson!"

exclamatory sentence

**Indirect Speech** – Fleck sadly exclaimed that he could not understand the lesson.

1. When changing the mode of narration of an exclamation, the **exclamatory sentence** in **direct speech** is changed into a **statement** in **indirect speech**.
2. The **reporting verb**, **said** is replaced with a suitable verb such as **exclaim, cry, wish** etc.
3. Words like - oh, alas, hurrah, etc. are **omitted**. Instead, words or phrases that **convey** the **same expression** are used in indirect speech.
4. In Indirect speech, the **exclamation mark** is replaced with a **full stop**, since the exclamatory sentence is changed into a statement.