

Direct indirect speech

- **b- Direct to Indirect Speech**

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- Here in this part, it will be seen that How the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech and Indirect to Direct Speech is done?

We may report the words of a speaker in two ways.

1. Direct Speech

We may quote the actual words of the speaker. This method is called Direct Speech.

2. Indirect Speech

We may report what he said without quoting his exact words. This method is called Indirect Speech or Reported Speech.

- **3. Changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech**

- When we change **Direct Speech** into **Indirect Speech**, it is necessary to:
- change all **Present** and **Future Tenses** in the **Direct Speech** into the **Past Tenses** in the **Indirect Speech** when the **main verb** (e.g., said, told) is in the **Past Tense**.
- **EXAMPLE: –**
- **Direct:** "Write carefully!" teacher said to me. (**Present Tense**)
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- **Indirect:** Teacher told me to write carefully. (**Past Tense**)
- **EXAMPLE: –**
- **Direct:** Madhuri said, "I am eating." (**Present Continuous Tense**)
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- **Indirect:** Madhuri said that she was eating. (**Past Continuous Tense**)
- **EXAMPLE: –**
- **Direct:** Sahil said, "I have found the keys." (**Present Perfect Tense**)
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- **Indirect:** Sahil said that he had found the keys. (**Past Perfect**)
- **EXAMPLE: –**
- **Direct:** Sonika said, "I shall call you tonight." (**Future Tense**)
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- **Indirect:** Sonika said that he would call me tonight. (**Future in Past Tense**)

- **Change the pronoun from first person and second person to third person.**
- **EXAMPLE: –**
- **Direct:**
- "We have finished our work", Said the factory workers.
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- **Indirect:**
- The factory workers said that **they** had finished **their** work.
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- (First person to third person)
- **EXAMPLE: –**
- **Direct:**
- "You have done your duties early."
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- **Indirect:**
- They told me that **they** had done their duties early.
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- (Second person to third person)
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- Sometimes we use more than one "speech" verb if the **direct speech** contains **more than one sentence**.
- **EXAMPLE: –**
- **Direct:** "Don't fight with your sister," my mother said. "Get on with your school homework."
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- **Indirect:** My mother **told** me not to fight with my sister. She **told/asked** me to get on with my school homework.

- **In most cases, we do not change the tense of the verbs in the indirect speech when:**
- the reporting verb is in the simple present tense (he says), the present perfect tense (she has told us) or the simple future tense (I will tell him).
- **EXAMPLE: –**
- **Direct:**
- "I'm tired," he says every evening. (present tense)
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- "They are late," she has already told us.(present perfect)
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- I will tell him, "The shop is shut." (future tense)
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- **Indirect:**
- Every evening he says (that) he is tired.
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- She has already told us (that) they are late.
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- I will tell him (that) the shop is shut.
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- * We do not change the **tense of verbs** in **indirect speech** if they make a statement which is always **true** or if the **action** is still **continuing** and a change of tense would give the **wrong meaning**.
- **EXAMPLE:**
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- **Direct:** He told us, "The world is round."
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- **Indirect:** He told us that the world is round.
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- **Direct:** She said, "My brother is living in U.K."
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- **Indirect:** She said that her brother **is** living in U.K. (She said that her brother **was** living in U.K – would indicate her brother is no longer living in U.K which is not true.)
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- The following changes are made when we convert **direct** to **indirect speech**.

- shall
- to
- should
- will
- to
- would
- may
- to
- might
- can
- to
- could
- has
- to
- had

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- The pronoun is changed in person from **first** and **second** to **third**.

- I
- becomes
- he or she
- We
- becomes
- they
- You
- becomes
- he, him, her or them

- Changes are made to the following **adjectives** and **adverbs**:
- this
- to
- that
- these
- to
- those
- now
- to
- then
- today
- to
- that day
- last night
- to
- on the previous night or the night before
- tomorrow
- to
- the next day or the day after
- here
- to
- there
- yesterday
- to
- the previous day or the day before
- thus
- to
- so; (in) that way

- **5. Reporting a Question**

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- When reporting a **question**, ensure the question **ends** with a **period** rather than a **question mark**.

EXAMPLE:

The reporter asked, "Why no one has been arrested?" (**direct question**)

The reporter asked why no one has been arrested. (**indirect question**)

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Example:

- Direct: The Principal of the college said, "I am very busy now."
- Indirect: The Principal of the college said that he was very busy then.

- Direct : He said, " my mother is writing letter."
- Indirect: He said that his mother was writing letter.

- **How to change Direct to Indirect Speech?**

It will be noticed that in Direct Speech, we use inverted commas to mark off the exact words of the speaker. In Indirect Speech we do not use the inverted commas.

It will be further noticed that in changing the above Direct Speech into Indirect speech, certain changes have been made.

Thus:

- i. We have used the conjunction 'that' before the Indirect Statement.
- ii. The pronoun "I" is changed to "HE". (The Pronoun is changed in Person)
- iii. The verb "am" is changed to "was".
- iv. The adverb "now" is changed to "then".

Rules for changing Direct into Indirect Speech:

- A. When the reporting or principal verb is in the Past Tense, all the Present Tenses in the Direct Speech are changed into Past Tense.
 - a. A simple present tense becomes simple past tense.

Example:

- Direct : He said, “I am unwell.”
- Indirect: He said that he was unwell.

- b. A present continuous tense becomes a past continuous.

Example:

- Direct : He said, “ my mother is writing letter.”
- Indirect: He said that his mother was writing letter.

In this Indirect Speech, both the past tense and the present tense make the sentence a correct one.

- Direct: The teacher said, “The earth goes round the sun.”
- Indirect: The teacher said that the earth goes/went round the sun.

- Direct: Duggoo said, “German is easy to learn.”
- Indirect: Duggoo said that German was/is easy to learn.
 - c. A present perfect becomes a past perfect:

Are you about the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech?

Example:

- Direct: He said, “I have passed the examination.”
- Indirect: he said that he had passed the examination.

d. As a rule the simple past tense in the Direct Speech becomes the past perfect tense in Indirect Speech.

Example:

- Direct: He said, “His horse died in the night.”
- Indirect: he said that his horse had died in the night.

NOTE:

The shall of the future is changed into should.

The will of the future is changed into would.

The can and may of the future are changed into could and might respectively

- Are you about the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech?
- B. The tenses will not change if the statement is still relevant or if it is a universal truth. We can often choose whether to keep The original tenses or change them.

Examples:

- Direct: "I know her address", said Vishwajeet.
- Indirect: John said that he knows/knew her address.

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In this Indirect Speech, both the past tense and the present tense make the sentence a correct one.

- Direct: The teacher said, "The earth goes round the sun."
- Indirect: The teacher said that the earth goes/went round the sun.
- Direct: Duggoo said, "German is easy to learn."
- Indirect: Duggoo said that German was/is easy to learn.

- The past tense is often used when it is uncertain if the statement is true or when we are reporting objectively.

Are you about the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech?

C. If the reporting verb is in present tense, the tenses of the Direct Speech do not change. For example, we may rewrite the above examples, putting the reporting verb in the present tense.

Examples:

- Direct : He says, "I am unwell."
- Indirect: He says that he is unwell.

- Direct : He says, " my mother is writing letter."
- Indirect: He says that his mother is writing letter.

- Direct: He says, "I have passed the examination."
- Indirect: he says that he has passed the examination

- D. The pronouns of the Direct Speech are changed where necessary, so that their relations with the reporter and his hearer, Rather than with the original speaker are indicated.

Examples:

- Direct: He said to me, "I do not believe you."
- Indirect: He said that he did not believe me.

- Direct: She said to him, "I do not believe you."
- Indirect: She said to him that she did not believe him.

- Direct: I said to him, "I did not believe you."
- Indirect: I said to him that I did not believe him.

- Direct: I said to you, "I do not believe you."
- Indirect: I said to you that I do not believe you.

- **E. Words expressing nearness in time or places are generally changed into words expressing distance.**

Examples:

- Direct: He said, "I am glad to be here this evening."
- Indirect: he said that he was glad to be there that evening.

- Direct: He said, "I was here yesterday."
- Indirect: He said that he was there the day before.

Are you about the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech?

Now, let us see the words which get changed when the Direct Speech is changed into Indirect Speech.

- - Now becomes then
 - Here becomes there
 - Ago becomes before
 - Thus becomes so
 - Today becomes that day
 - Tomorrow becomes the next day
 - Yesterday becomes the day before
 - Last night becomes the night before
 - This becomes that
 - These becomes those

Are you about the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech?

- **F. How the questions used in the Direct Speech are changed into Indirect Speech?**

In reporting questions, the indirect Speech is introduced by such verbs as asked, inquired etc...

Examples:

- Direct: He said to me, "What are you doing?"
- Indirect: He asked me what I was doing.

- Direct: A stranger asked me, "Where do you live?"
- Indirect: A stranger enquired where I lived.

- Direct: The Policemen said to us, "Where are you going?"
- Indirect: The Policemen asked us where we were going.

- **G. How the Commands and the Requests in the Direct Speeches are changed when the Direct Speeches are changed into indirect Speeches?**

In reporting commands and requests, the indirect speech is introduced by some verb expressing commands and requests, and the Imperative Mood is changed into Infinitive Mood.

Examples:

- Direct: Raja said to John, "Go away."
- Indirect: Raja ordered John to go away.
- Direct: He said to Mary, "Please wait here till I return."
- Indirect: he requested Mary to wait there till he returned.

Are you about the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech?

- Direct: "Call the first witness", said the Judge.
- Indirect: The Judge commanded them to call the first witness.

- **H. How the Exclamation and the Wishes in the Direct Speeches are changed when the Direct Speeches are changed into Indirect Speeches?**

In reporting exclamation and wishes, the Indirect Speech is introduced by some verb expressing Exclamation and Wishes.

Examples:

- Direct: He said, "Alas! I am undone".
- Indirect: He exclaimed sadly that he was undone.

- Direct: Alice said, "How clever I am?"
- Indirect: Alice exclaimed that he was very clever.

- Direct: He said, "Bravo! You have done well."
- Indirect: he applauded him, saying that he had done well.

- Direct: "So help me, Heaven!" he cried, "I will never steal again".
- Indirect: He called upon Heaven to witness his resolve never to resolve