

DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

- The word-'Narration' means 'Statement'. It is made of the word-narrate. Narrate means 'to say'/'to state'. The synonym (= same meaning word) of Narration is assertion or statement or declaration.
- We may report the words of the speaker in two ways:
 - We may quote actual words. When a speech is quoted in the actual words by the speaker, it is called Direct Speech.
 - When the speech is reported in the form of a narrative, giving the substance or meaning of the words used by the speaker, without quoting his actual words, it is called the Indirect Speech.



➤ Features of Direct Speech:

- The speech which is under Quotation marks or Inverted commas in writing is called Direct speech and the verb which it is expressed, is called Reporting Verb.
- In writing, the Direct Speech is put within Inverted commas (“...”) to mark off the exact words of the speaker.
- A comma is used after reporting verb.
- The first letter of the Direct Speech is a capital letter.

DIRECT SPEECH		
SPEAKER	REPORTING VERB	DIRECT SPEECH
Sitesh	said,	“I am very busy”

➤ Features of Indirect Speech:

- In indirect speech inverted commas are not used, but generally reporting verb and reported speech are joined together by the conjunction like ‘that’, ‘if’ or ‘whether’ etc.
- The comma between reporting verb and reported speech is removed.
- The signs of question mark (?) and exclamation (!) are not used. Instead full stop sign (.) is used.
- The forms of interrogative, imperative, exclamatory and optative sentences are changed to assertive sentence.
- The tense of reported speech is changed according to the tense of reporting speech.

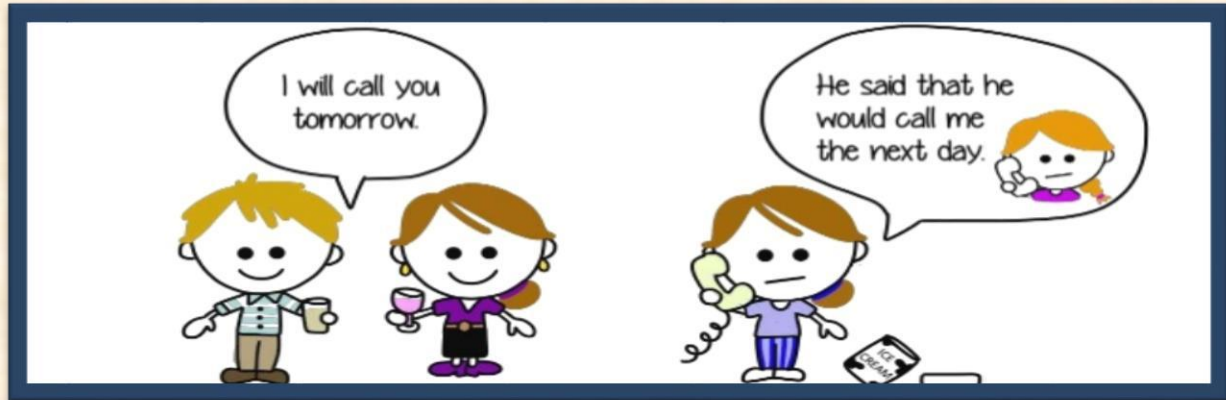
INDIRECT SPEECH			
REPORTER	REPORTING VERB	LINKER	REPORTED SPEECH
Sitesh	said	that	he was very busy

GENERAL RULES FOR CHANGING DIRECT SPEECH INTO INDIRECT SPEECH

1) We use a linker before the indirect speech.

Direct speech: *She said, "I'm unwell".*

Reported speech: *She said that she was unwell.*



2) The pronouns are changed according to sense.

Direct speech: *She said, "I'm glad to be here".*

Reported speech: *She said that she was glad to be there.*

Direct Speech	Reported Speech	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
I	He, she	Me	Him, her
We	They	Us	Them
You	He, she, they	You	Him, Her, them
My	His, her	Mine	His, hers
Our	Their	Ours	Theirs
Your	His, her, their	Yours	His, hers, theirs

➤ Exception:

Direct speech: *I said, "I sing a song."*

Reported speech: *I said that I sang a song.*

- First person pronoun in reported speech i.e. I, we, me, us, mine, or our, is not changed if the pronoun (Subject) of reporting is also first person pronoun i.e. I or we.
- **Examples.**
Direct speech: I said, "I write a letter"
Indirect speech: I said that I wrote a letter.

3) If the reporting verb is in the past tense, we must make the following changes.

➤ Present Simple Tense into Past Simple Tense

For example:

Direct speech: He said, "She always wears a coat".

Reported speech: He said that she always wore a coat.

➤ Present Continuous Tense into Past Continuous Tense

For example:

Direct speech: She said, "I'm looking for my keys".

Reported speech: She said that she was looking for her keys.

➤ Present Perfect Tense into Past Perfect Tense

For example:

Direct speech: He said, "She has written three letters for her friend."

Reported speech: He said that she had written three letters for her friend.

➤ Past Simple Tense into Past Perfect Tense

For example:

Direct speech: He said, "My friend gave me a bar of chocolate".

Reported speech: He said that his friend had given him a bar of chocolate.

➤ Past Continuous Tense into Past Perfect Continuous Tense

For example:

Direct speech: They said, "We were living in London."

Reported speech: They said that they had been living in London.

➤ Past Perfect Tense (The tense remains unchanged)

For example:

Direct speech: She said, "The bread had gone stale".

Reported speech: She said that the bread had gone stale.

➤ Future Simple Tense (e.g. will) into "would"

For example:

Direct speech: He said, "I will finish my report in two days."

Reported speech: He said that he would finish his report in two days.

➤ Future Progressive Tense (e.g. will be) into "would be"

For example:

Direct speech: He said, "I will be making tea".

Reported speech: He said that he would be making tea.

➤ **Future Perfect Tense (e.g. will have) into “would have”**

For example:

Direct speech: He said, “I will have called a doctor.”

Reported speech: He said that he would have called a doctor.

➤ **Future Perfect Tense (e.g. will have been) into “would have been”**

For example:

Direct speech: He said, “All the money will have been spent”.

Reported speech: He said that all the money would have been spent.

Tense changes	Direct speech	Reported speech
Present simple -> Past simple	He said, „I go for a walk every evening“.	He said (that) he went for a walk every evening.
Present continuous -> Past continuous	He said, “I am watching TV”.	He said (that) he was watching TV.
Present perfect -> Past perfect	He said, “I have finished my work”.	He said (that) he had finished his work.
Past simple -> Past perfect	He said, “I read this book”.	He said (that) he had read that book.
Future simple -> Future in the past	He said, “I’ll call you from London”.	He said (that) he would call me from London.
Past continuous -> Past perfect continuous	He said, “I was writing a letter at 7 p.m.”.	He said (that) he had been writing a letter at 7 p.m.
Past perfect -> Past perfect	He said, “I had finished my work by 5 o’clock”.	He said (that) he had finished his work by 5 o’clock

4) If the reporting verb is in the present or future tense, the tense of the verb of the direct speech is not changed at all.

Direct speech: The farmer says, "I am busy."

Indirect speech: The farmer says that he is busy.

Direct speech: My friend will say, "I love to eat chocolate."

Indirect speech: My friend will say that he loves to eat chocolate.

Direct Speech

Ungerna **says**, "I **eat** chocolate pudding everyday."

simple present

reporting verb remains same

Indirect Speech

Ungerna **says** that she **eats** chocolate pudding everyday.

remains simple present

➤ **NOTE:**

If the statement is a habitual truth or eternal truth, no change of tense is required. Only the pronouns are changed.

Direct speech: Bimal said, "I walk for an hour every morning."

Indirect speech: Bimal said that he walks for an hour every morning.

Direct speech: The teacher said, "The sun rises in the east."

Indirect speech: The teacher said that the sun rises in the east.

Eternal truth

E.g. The boy said, 'The earth goes round the sun.'

The boy said that the earth goes round the sun.



5) Some words of time expression and place expression is changed if the reporting verb is in the past tense.

Direct Speech: Peter said “I worked in the garden yesterday.”

Indirect Speech: Peter said that he had worked in the garden the previous day.

Direct speech: He said: “It is cold in here.”

Indirect speech: He said that it was cold in there.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
ago	before
come	go
here	there
just	then
now	then
this	that
these	those
thus	so
tonight	that night
today	that day
tomorrow	the next day
yesterday	the following day
last night/week/year	the previous day
next week /month/year	the previous night/ week/year
	the following week/month/year

6) If the reporting verb is “SAID TO”, then it should be changed into “TOLD”.

Direct Speech: Peter said to John “I have been learning music for two years.”

Indirect Speech: Peter told John that he had been learning music for two years.

Shaina said to Survi, “You will perform the role of the princess.” His uncle said to us, “I will give you a treat tonight.”	Shaina told Survi that she would perform the role of the princess. His uncle told us that he would give us a treat that night. ('you' changes to 'us' according to object.)
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7) Auxiliary verbs remain the same in the indirect speech.
'Must', 'might', 'ought to', 'should', 'could' and 'would'
stay the same. But if the reporting verb is in past tense,
then 'Will' normally changes to 'Would', 'Shall' normally
changes to 'Should', 'May' normally changes to 'might'
and 'Can' normally changes to 'Could'. Sometimes
'Must' is also changed to 'Had to'.

➤ Can: Can changes to could.

Direct speech: He said, "I can speak five languages."

Indirect speech: He said that he could speak five languages.

➤ May: May changes to might.

Direct speech: She said, "I may buy a new TV today."

Indirect speech: She said that she might buy a new TV that day.

➤ Will: Will changes to would.

Direct speech: They said to me, "We will meet you tomorrow."

Indirect speech: They told me that they would meet me the next day.

➤ Must: Must changes to had to.

Direct speech: My teacher said to me, "You must be on time to class."

Indirect speech: My teacher told me that I had to be on time to class.

➤ Could: Could remains could.

Direct speech: He said, "I couldn't speak English a few years ago."

Indirect speech: He said that he couldn't speak English a few years back.

➤ **Might: Might remains might.**

Direct speech: They said to him, "We might fire your brother."

Indirect speech: They told him that they might fire his brother."

➤ **Would: Would Remains would.**

Direct speech: He said to me, "You would not keep up with them."

Indirect speech: He told me that I would not keep up with them.

➤ **Should: Should remains should.**

Direct speech: He said to me, "I should study hard."

Indirect speech: He told me that he should study hard.

➤ **Ought to: Ought to remains ought to.**

Direct speech: She said to me, "You ought to close the gate."

Indirect speech: She reminded me that I ought to close the gate.

<u>QUOTED SPEECH</u>	<u>REPORTED SPEECH</u>
"I should watch TV."	She said she should watch TV.
"I ought to watch TV."	She said she ought to watch TV.
"I might watch TV."	She said she might watch TV.

<u>Modal Verbs</u>	
<u>can</u> I can swim under water for two minutes.	<u>could</u> He said (that) he could swim under water for two minutes.
<u>must</u> All tickets must be bought in advance.	<u>had to</u> He said (that) all tickets had to be bought in advance.
<u>may</u> I may call you.	<u>might</u> He said (that) he might call me.

NARRATION OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCE

Rule 1: If the direct speech is in interrogative sentence, reporting verbs such as say, tell etc. are changed into ask, enquire etc. in the indirect speech and the verb takes an object.

Rule 2: If the direct speech begins with some 'wh' question word, such as who, what, where, why, how, etc., the question word is retained in the indirect speech.

Rule 3: If the direct speech does not begin with 'wh' question word, 'if' or 'whether' is used as linker.

Rule 4: The order of words in the indirect speech is changed from interrogative construction to the assertive construction and the note of interrogation (?) becomes full stop (.).

Interrogative Sentence

Change the following into indirect speech:

Direct Speech : Kabir said, "May I have a cup of tea?"

Indirect Speech: Kabir asked if he might have a cup of tea.

Direct Speech : The man said to me, "What is your name?"

Indirect Speech: The man asked me what my name was.

Direct Speech : Rahim said to Karim, "What does your father do?"

Indirect Speech: Rahim asked Karim what his father did.

Direct Speech : He said to me, "What do you want?"

Indirect Speech: He asked me what I wanted.

Direct Speech : I said to him, "What are you doing?"

Indirect Speech: I asked him what he was doing.

Direct Speech : I said to him, "What did she do with my book?"

Indirect Speech: I asked him what she had done with my book.

NARRATION OF IMPERATIVE SENTENCE

1. While converting imperative sentences, change the verb in the reported speech into the infinitive form (i.e., use 'to' before the verb of the Reported Speech) and the reporting verb into some such words as 'tell', 'request', 'command', 'beg', 'entreat', as the sense of the speech may require.

For example,

I said to him, "Please explain the passage."

I requested him to explain the passage.

The principal said to me, "Do not go there."

The principal ordered me not to go there.

2. "Tell" may often be used to express 'request', 'order', 'command', etc. It is, therefore, often safer to use tell in the Indirect form when there is doubt about the proper word to introduce the reported speech.

For example,

He said, "Ram, go there."

He told Ram to go there.

3. In the indirect speech, such expression as 'please, sir' in the direct speech are left out, or they are rendered by such expressions as kindly, politely etc.
4. When Let in the Direct speech expresses a proposal or suggestion, we may use should for Let, and change the reporting verb into propose or suggest.

For example:

He said to me, "Let us have some music."

He proposed/suggested to him that we should have some music.

5. But when Let does not express a proposal, it should be changed into might or might be allowed, or into some other form according to the sense.

For example,

He said, "Let him do whatever he likes."

He said that he might/might be allowed to do whatever he liked.

NARRATION OF OPTATIVE SENTENCE

In optative sentences, the reporting verb is changed into 'wish' or 'pray', and the optative form is changed into a statement.

For example,

He said to me, "May you be happy."

He wished or prayed that I might be happy.

He said to you, "May God bless you."

He prayed that God might bless you.

NARRATION OF EXCLAMATORY SENTENCE

1. If the direct form is an exclamation, the reporting verb is changed to some such verb as 'exclaim', 'cry out', 'pray', 'wish', and the exclamation is turned into statement. But new words and phrases have often to be introduced to express the full meaning.

For example,

He said, "Hurrah! India has won the match."

He exclaimed in joy that India had won the match.

He said, "Alas! I am undone."

He cried out in sorrow that he was undone.

2. It should be carefully noted that 'what', 'how', and 'who' are sometimes used in exclamation to denote excess or absence. In such cases they should be replaced by 'great', 'greatly', 'very', 'very much' or 'none' in the indirect speech.

For example,

He said to me, "How happy you are!"

He told me that he was very happy.

He said, "What was my joy to see the thing!"

He said that his joy to see the thing was very great.

3. In the following examples, the indirect speeches have been framed without much addition of new words or phrases.

For example,

He said, "Thank you."

He thanked me.

He said, "Good morning."

He greeted/wished me good morning.