Narration Study Material

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| A person conveys verbal message in two ways: | | |
|  | **Direct Speech** | **Indirect Speech** |
| Condition | We quote the speaker’s actual words. | We report it. |

Here is a situational example of **Direct** Speech :



My English teacher is engaging the lecture.

Okay.

See you later.

Shruti

Nitu

Time: Morning

Conversation takes place.



Shruti said, “My English

teacher is engaging the lecture.” Okay.

Nitu

Mansi

Time: Evening

Narration: Direct Speech

The same example when recounted in **Indirect** Speech .:



Shruti informed me that her English teacher was engaging the lecture.

Okay.

Time:Evening

Narration: Indirect Speech

Nitu

Mansi

# Clause Construction

**Reporting** and **Reported** Clause

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| Speech | | Reporting Clause | Joined by | Reported Speech |
| A | **Direct** | Ankit said to me | Comma (punctuation) | “I know Japanese.” |
| B | **Indirect** | Ankit told me | that (joining word) | he knew Japanese. |

Example

Ratna **said**, “I **work** in a company”.

**Verb in the Reporting Clause : “**said**” Verb in the Reported Clause: “**work**”**

# Direct to Indirect Speech Transformation Rules

1. **Change in pronoun:**

**a.** The first person pronoun of the the verb in the

changes in accordance to the

of

You said to me, “**I** will study..” >You told me that **you** would study.

She said, “**I** am fine.” >She said that **she** was fine.

Meena and Rahul said “ **We** are going to win.” > Meena and Rahul said that **they** were going to win.

reporting clause.

Person of the **subject**

report**ed** clause

**b.** The second Person Pronoun of the report**ed** clause changes

in accordance to the **object** of the verb in the reporting clause.

**Second Person Pronoun**

You, your, yours

She said to **me**, “**You** look well.” >She told me that **I** looked well.

They said to **her**, “**You** will win.” >They assured her that **she** would win. (note use of extra word)

**c.** The third person pronoun of the report**ed** clause or any name or noun **DOES NOT CHANGE.**

Ravina said to me, “His voice is melodious.” >Ravina told me that his voice was melodious.

Anikesh says to me, “She will come back.” >Aniskesh tells me that she will come back.

1. **Change in tense**:
   1. Tense of the reported clause changes when the verb in the reporting clause is in the past tense.

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| **Direct Speech** |  | **Indirect Speech** |
| **Present** | Changes to Past | **Past** |
| (Simple)  She said, “I am okay.” | (Simple)  She said that she was okay. |
| (Continuous)  Anik said, “I am writing.” | (Continuous) Anik said that he was writing |
| (Perfect )  Ragini said, “It has rained.” | (Perfect )  Ragini said that it had rained. |
| (Perfect Continuous)  Anita said to me, “ I have been waiting since afternoon.” | (Perfect Continuous)  Anita told me that she had been waiting since afternoon. |

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| **Future** (reported clause) | Changes to Past | **Past** (reported clause) |
| (Simple)  I said, “I will drive.” | *would*  I said that I would drive. |
| (Continuous)  You said, “You will be singing.” | *would be*  You said that you would be singing. |
| (Perfect)  Anjani said, “You will have to swim.” | *would have*  Anjani said you would have to swim. |

* 1. When the verb in the reporting clause and the verb in the reported clause are in the past then the verb in the reported clause changes into past perfect tense.

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| **Direct Speech** |  | **Indirect Speech** |
| (Simple Past)  He said , “We won .” | Changes to | (Past Perfect)  He said that they had won. |
| (Past Continuous) Ram said, “I was eating.” | (Past Perfect Continuous) Ram said that he had been eating. |
| (Past Perfect)  Ansh said, “I had spoken.” | No change | (Past Perfect)  Ansh said that he had spoken. |
| (Past Perfect Continuous) Divya said, “I had been reading since morning.” | (Past Perfect Continuous) Divya said that she had been reading since morning. |

* 1. If the verb in the reporting clause is in present or future tense, the tense of reported clause does not change.

I say, “ Where have you been Tannu?”

You will say, “ I was happy.”

I ask Tannu where she has been.

You will say that you were happy.

1. **Change in time, place and adverb:** When the verb in the reporting clause words showing distance

generally replace words showing nearness in both aspects of time and space.

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| Today | that day/the same day | Examples:  She said, “I am ready now.” **Direct**  She said that she was ready then. **Indirect**  I said, “You went there last day.” **D**  I said that you had gone there the previous day. **I**  Renu said, “She studied here a year ago.” **D**  Renu said that she had studied there a year before. **I** |
| Tomorrow | the next day/the following day |
| Yesterday | the day before/the previous day |
| Next week/month/year | the following week/month/year |
| Last week/month/year | the previous week/month/year |
| Now/just | then |
| Ago | before |
| Here | there |
|  |
| This | that |
| These | Those |



Modals change ONLY FROM

DIRECT TO INDIRECT SPEECH

can, may, etc. **Direct**

could, might, etc. **Indirect**

I said, “I may go.” **D**

I said that I might go. **I**

UNIVERSAL TRUTH:

If the direct speech expresses a universal truth or a habitual fact, the tense in the indirect speech remains unchanged.

Pooja said, “The sun rises in the east.” **Direct**

Pooja said that the sun rises in the east. **Indirect**

Kavita said, “I practise writing in English everyday.” **D**

Kavita said that she practices writing in English everyday. **I**

**DIRECT TO INDIRECT EXAMPLE**

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| Example | Tanuja said to my mother, **“**I am writing a short story.**”** | | | | | Tanuja told my mother that she was writing a short story. |
| **Note** | | | | | | |
| Change in speaker’s (Tanuja’s) words | No change | | | | | Some changes (pronoun & tense) ‘I’ ‘she’ ‘am’ ‘was’ |
| Quotation mark | “...” is used.  Enclosed text begins with a capital letter and period/full stop appears outside quotes. | | | | | Not applicable |
| Comma | Comma ( , ) quotation begins. | is | used | before | the | Not applicable |
| The verb outside “...” | ‘said’ | | | | | ‘told’ |
| “that” as joining word | Not applicable | | | | | “that” is used (No Comma) |

# Transformation from Direct to Indirect w.r.t. Forms of Sentences

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| **Forms of Sentences within quotes** |  | **Direct Speech** | **Indirect Speech** |
| **Assertive** | verb in the Reporting Clause | Said | Said, Told (when there is an object.eg. He said to me, “...” He told me….) |
| Aman said, “The classes are going well.”**Direct**  Aman said that the classes were going well.” **Indirect**  I said to Rohit, “You have good communication skills.” **D**  I told Rohit that he had good communication skills. **I** | | |

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| **Interrogative** | verb in the Reporting Clause | Said | ask, enquire, demand, etc. |
| Questions Begins | ‘Wh’ words | Reported clause begins directly with ‘Wh’ words. |
| Is, are, do, was, will, can, etc. (can be answered with YES/NO) | Reported clause begins with ‘if’ and ‘whether’. |
| Question mark | Yes | No |
| Joining Word | Comma | No joining word |
| I said to him, “Who are you?” **Direct**  I asked him who he was. **Indirect**  Amar asked me, “Do you know where Ruchi is?” **D**  Amar enquired of me if I knew where Ruchi was. **I** | | |

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| **Imperative** | verb in the Reporting Clause | Said | Command, order, advise, propose, implore, beg, threaten, beseech, forbid, ask, etc. |
|  | Verbs indicating command, advice, request, etc.  go, work, lend, etc. | Changes into infinitives  to obey, to work, not to eat, etc. |
| I said to him, “Obey your parents and teachers.”**D**  I advised him to obey his parents and teachers. **I or,**  I advised him that he should obey his parents and teachers. **I**  She said to him, “Back off.” **D**  She ordered him to back off. **I** | | |
| **Let**  I said, “Let him go.” **D**  I requested to let him go **or,** I ordered to let him go. **I**  He said, “Let us hide it.” **D**  He suggested that we should hide it. **I** | | |

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| **Exclamatory** | verb in the Reporting Clause | Said | Pray, cry, exclaim, bless, wish, |
|  | Interjections:  oh, bravo, hurrah, alas, etc. | Remove/omit Interjections |
| The child said, “Hurrah ! Mother has come home.” **D**  The child exclaimed with delight that mother had come home. **I**  Mother said to me, “May you live long !” **D**  Mother wished/prayed that I might live long. **I**  Amit said, “Wow ! What a cute kitten.” **D**  Amit complemented that it was a **very** cute kitten. **I** (note:‘very’ added) | | |

**Transformation of Indirect Speech to Direct Speech**

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| Speech | Reporting Clause | Joining Word | Reported Clause |
| Indirect | I asked Sonam | if | she was still sad. |
| Direct | I said to Sonam | Comma(No Word ) | “Are you still sad?” |

# Note

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| 1. | Reported clause is placed within quotation marks [ , “...” ]. |
| 2. | The first word of the clause within quotes begins with a capital letter. |
| 3. | “ ? ” is added at the end of the transformed sentence. |
| 4. | The subject pronoun in reported clause “she” “You”. |
| 5. | Question begins with an auxiliary, appropriate to the subject pronoun in the reported clause. |
| 6. | Joining word “if” is removed. |
| 7. | The verb “asked” is replaced with a verb “said” in the reporting clause. |

**Transformation of Indirect to Direct Speech Examples**

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| **Forms o f Sentences** | **Indirect Speech** | **Direct Speech** |
| Assertive | Jyoti said that she had performed the day before. | Jyoti said, “I performed yesterday.” |
| Interrogative | Ananya enquired Anushka if she needed any help. | Ananya said to Anushka, “Do you need any help?” |
| Imperative | Reema ordered the naughty boy to leave the puppy alone. | Reema said to the naughty boy, “Leave the puppy alone.” |
| Exclamatory | Kiran complemented Avni saying that she had a very beautiful mind. | Kiran said to Avi, “Wow! What a beautiful mind you have.” |