

Module 3 - Change of Speech

DIRECTIONS for questions 1 to 5: Rewrite the following sentences by changing the speech.

- 1. John said, "I love this town."

 John said that he loved that town.
- 2. "Do you like soccer?" He asked me.

He asked me if I liked soccer.

3. "What have you decided to do?" she asked him.

She asked him what he had decided to do.

4. John's father reminded him to take his umbrella.

"Don't forget to take your umbrella, John", said his father.

5. John asked, "How long will it take to travel from Germany to South Africa?" John asked how long it would take to travel from Germany to South Africa.

DIRECTIONS for questions 6 to 10: A sentence has been given in Direct Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect Speech.

- 6. His father says "Honesty is the best policy."
 - a. His father called honesty is the best policy.
 - b. His father asked if honesty is the best policy.
 - c. His father exclaimed that honesty is the best policy.
 - d. His father says that honesty is the best policy.

The correct option is D. This is a quote hence it will remain as it is. The tense won't change.

- 7. Rama said, 'I am very busy now.'
 - a. Rama said that he was very busy then.
 - b. Rama said that he would be very busy now.
 - c. Rama said that he is very busy then.
 - d. Rama said that he is very busy now.

The correct option is A. The Simple present tense changes into the simple past; the first person 'I' in the reported speech changes to 'he'. The time 'now' changes to 'then'.



- 8. He said to him,' Is not your name Khalid?
 - a. He said that his name was Khalid.
 - b. He inquired whether his name was not Khalid.
 - c. He asked if his name was not Khalid.
 - d. He asked why his name was Khalid.

The correct option is B. In interrogative sentences, conjunction 'if' or 'whether' is used in place of that in the indirect speech and the question mark is removed. A simple present will change into a simple past.

- 9. Ram remarked "What a wonderful day!"
 - a. Ram exclaimed that it was a wonderful day.
 - b. Ram asked if it was a wonderful day.
 - c. Ram said what a wonderful day.
 - d. Ram asked what a wonderful day.

The correct option is A. Due to the usage of exclamation mark exclaimed is the right option

- 10. Ali said to the beggar, 'I know you very well'
 - a. Ali recognized the beggar.
 - b. Ali told the beggar that he knew him very well.
 - c. Beggar knew Ali too.
 - d. Beggar was recognized by Ali.

The correct option is B. 'Said' to should be changed to 'told'. 'Know' should be changed to 'knew' and pronouns changed from 1st person to 2nd person and from 2nd person to 3rd. Ali told the beggar that **he** knew **him** very well.

DIRECTIONS for questions 11 to 15: A sentence has been given in Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Direct Speech.

- 11. His father ordered him to go to his room and study.
 - a. His father said, "Go to your room and study."
 - b. His father said to him, "Go and study in your room."
 - c. His father shouted, "Go right now to your study room."
 - d. His father said firmly, "Go and study in your room."

The correct option is A. This is the only sentence that sounds like it is an order (not shouting or saying firmly). Option B is incorrect because it unnecessarily introduces and changes words in the sentence.

- 12. He assured them that he would soon return.
 - a. He assures them, "I will soon return."
 - b. He assured them, "I will soon return."
 - c. He assured them, "I may soon return."
 - d. He assured them, "I might soon return."

The correct option is B. No need to change assured to assures. Hence option A eliminated. No need to add the words 'may and might'. Hence options C & D are eliminated. If indirect sentence has the word 'would' then a direct sentence should have 'will'. Hence option A.



- 13. He said he was very sorry for the fault he had committed.
 - a. He said, "I am very sorry for the fault I have committed."
 - b. He said, "I was very sorry for the fault I have committed."
 - c. He said, "I have been very sorry for the fault I have committed."
 - d. He said, "I am very sorry for the fault I had committed."

The correct option is A. As per the rules, the following will change when changing from indirect to direct.

Change of tense- Was to am; had committed to have committed.

Change of pronouns - He to I.

- 14. She ordered her servant to bring her a cup of tea.
 - a. She said to her servant, "Bring me a cup of tea."
 - b. She told her servant, "Bring a cup of tea."
 - c. She said, "Please bring a cup of tea."
 - d. She told her servant, "Bring her that cup of tea."

The correct option is A. This is the only sentence that sounds like an order. Also, bring her a cup of tea will change to bring me a cup a tea. Hence option B is eliminated.

- 15. Ram said his sister was getting married.
 - a. Ram said, "His sister is getting married."
 - b. Ram told, "His sister is getting married."
 - c. Ram said, "My sister is getting married."
 - d. Ram said, "My sister was getting married."

The correct option is C. Past tense changes to present; hence 'was' changed to 'is'. The pronoun 'his' changes to 'my'.

DIRECTIONS for questions 16 to 20: Change the speech in the following sentences appropriately as per the given choices. (Mixed speech exercise)

- 16. The priest said, 'Be quiet and listen to my words.'
- a. The priest said them to be quiet and listen to his words.
- b. The priest told them that they should be quiet and listen to his words.
- c. The priest urged them to be quiet and to listen to his words.
- d. The priest said they should be quiet and listen to him.

Solution: The correct option is C. Logically, no other option fits.

- 17. "Please bring your own plates and spoons," she told us.
- a. She suggested us to bring her own plates and spoons.
- b. She suggested us to bring their own plates and spoons.
- c. She suggested that we bring our own plates and spoons.
- d. She suggested us to bring my own plates and spoons.

Solution: The correct option is C. The pronoun changes. Your own plates change to our own plates. A, B, and D are incorrect because 'suggest' must be followed by the preposition 'to'.

- 18. "Don't touch it! Leave it alone!" I said.
- a. I told him not to touch it but to leave it alone.
- **b.** I told him not to touch it but to have left it alone.
- c. I will tell him not to touch it but to leave it alone.
- **d.** I told him to touch it but to leave it alone.



Solution: The correct option is A. In Option B, the verb form 'have left' is inappropriate. In Option C, the verb form 'will tell' changes the meaning. In Option D, the adverb 'not' has been left out.

- 19. The father warned his son that he should beware of him.
- a. The father warned his son, "beware of him!"
- **b.** The father warned his son, "Watch that chap!
- c. The father warned his son, "Be careful about him."
- **d.** The father warned his son, "Don't fall into the trap."

Solution: The correct option is A. In all the other options the words are changed unnecessarily.

- 20. Bhim asked his mother to cheer up because he would go and get work somewhere.
- a. 'Don't worry, mother, I'll go and get work somewhere,' said Bhim.
- b. 'Cheer up, mother, I'll go and get work somewhere,' said Bhim.
- c. 'Cheer up, mother, I am going now to get work somewhere,' said Bhim.
- d. 'Smile mother, I shall go and get work somewhere,' said Bhim.

Solution: The correct option is B. 'He would go and get work somewhere' should change to 'I will go and get work somewhere'.

