

Direct and Indirect Speech

Direct Speech Interrogative Sentences

In direct speech, the actual words spoken by the speaker are enclosed in quotation marks. Whenever you form questions using direct speech, it is important to make note of actual words spoken and punctuation.

Examples:

He asked, “Where are you going”?

She asked,” Did you finish your homework”?

In Indirect speech, the questions are not quoted in quotation marks as they are not the actual words of the speaker whereas the speaker tries to quote the meaning of someone’s else words. Transformation of sentences from direct speech to indirect speech involves several changes such as a change in the verb form, the removal of quotation marks, alteration in pronouns, and a change in word order.

Examples:

He asked where I was going.

She asked if I had finished my homework.

Rules For Changing Interrogative Sentences into Indirect Speech

One must follow these rules while changing direct speech interrogative sentences to indirect speech

Rule 1: Reporting Verb is changed to ask, inquire, or wonder according to the sentence.

Rule 2: The question mark is removed thus changing the interrogative form of the sentence to an affirmative sentence. This is done by placing the subject before the verb and if a sentence starts with a helping verb such as do or did they are removed in indirect speech.

Rule 3: If the sentence begins with the who words such as where, how etc. then we will not use any conjunction in the indirect speech for conversion.

Rule 4: If the sentence begins with the helping verbs such as do, did, have, etc. then conjunctions “if “ or “whether” are used to transform it into indirect speech.

Examples

Direct Speech

He said to him," Do you live in Karachi?"

She said to her mother "Are you going to school tomorrow?"

The professor said to me " Did you come late today?"

My mother said to me," What do you want?"

The teacher said to Sam," Where are you going?"

She said to my sister," Will you take tea?"

My brother said to me," Do you like horror films?"

He said to me," Do you live here?"

She said to her mother "Where are you going?"

She said to her friend," Are you coming to the party?"

She said to her father," What time does the train leave?"

She said to her sister," Are you joining us for lunch?"

My mother said to my friend," Where do you live?"

My friend said to me," Have you visited the museum?"

My brother said to me," Are you enjoying the book?"

My maid said to me," What time is your flight?"

My father said to me," Did you receive the mail?"

She said to him," Have they arrived?"

They said to me," Can you swim?"

He said to me, Why did you choose this restaurant?"

She said to me," Do you buy a new car?"

He said to his friend," Will you help me with this project?"

She said to him "Did she call you?"

My mother said to me," Is it raining outside?"

The host said to the organizer," Who is coming to the event?"

The boss said to the employee," Why are you late for the meeting?"

My sister said to me," Are they planning a surprise?"

My friend said to me, " Can I borrow your pen?

She said to her friend," Have you ever been to Paris?"

She said to her friend," Did you watch a new movie?"

My mother said to me," Have you finished your project?"

My father said to me," Have you seen my keys?"

My friends said to me," Is he coming with us?"

The boss said to me "Will you attend the meeting"

My teacher said to me," Did you understand the

Indirect Speech

He asked him if he lived in Karachi.

She asked her mother if she was going to school the next day.

The professor asked me if I came late the same day.

My mother asked me what I wanted.

The teacher asked Sam where he was going.

She asked my sister if she would take tea.

My brother asked me if I liked horror films.

He asked me if I lived there.

She asked her mother where she was going.

She asked her friend if she was coming to the party.

She asked her father what time the train left.

She asked her sister if she was joining them for lunch.

My mother asked my friend where she lived.

My friend asked me if I had visited the museum.

My brother asked me if I was enjoying the book.

My maid asked me what time my flight was.

My father asked me if I had received the mail.

She asked him if they had arrived.

They asked me if I could swim.

He asked me why I had chosen that restaurant.

She asked me if I bought a new car.

He asked his friend if he would help him with that project.

She asked him if she had called him.

My mother asked me if it was raining outside.

The host asked me who was coming to the party.

The boss asked the employee why he was late for the meeting.

My sister asked me if they were planning a surprise.

My friend asked me If I could borrow her pen.

She asked her friend if she had ever been to Paris.

She asked her friend if she had watched a new movie.

My mother asked me If I had finished my project.

My father asked me if I had seen his keys.

My friends asked me if he was coming with us.

The boss asked me if I would attend the meeting.

My teacher asked me if I understood the

instructions?"

My parents said to me," Will they attend the meeting"

My friend said to me" Can I play the guitar?"

My friend said to me," Have you met my brother?"

Her brother said to him " Do you like ice cream?"

I said to my father," Are we going on vacation?"

My friend said to me," Have you read this book?"

My brother said to me," Did you pass the exam"

My coach said to my brother, "Will you join the tennis team?"

The old man said to me," Is the mall open on Sunday?"

instructions.

My parents asked me if they would attend the meeting

My friend asked me if she could play the guitar.

My friend asked me If I had met his brother.

Her brother asked him if he liked ice cream.

I asked my father if they were going on vacation.

My friend asked me if I had read that book.

My brother asked me if I had passed the exam.

My coach asked my brother if he would join the tennis team.

The old man asked me if the mall opened on Sunday.