

Narration

‘Narration’ is a noun. It takes its origin from ‘Narrate’ which means to describe.

There are **two kinds of Narration**.

a. Direct Narration.

b. Indirect Narration.

Example:

He said to me, “ I am going to Dhaka tomorrow.” [Direct]

He told me that he was going to Dhaka the next day. [Indirect]

Direct to Indirect:

To transform Direct narration into Indirect narration we have to change the following:

a. Tense

b. Person and

c. words

Prepared By:

Md. Osman Gani

Lecturer in English

Majida Khatun Govt. Women’s College, Lalmonirhat.

Mobile/WhatsApp: 01737030979

Change of Tense:

There are two parts in a Direct Narration.

a. Reporting Part/Speech

b. Reported part/Speech

In the above example,

He said to me, ___ Reporting Part.

Here, ‘said’ is called reporting verb.

“ I am going to Dhaka tomorrow.” ___ Reported part.

Here, ‘am going ’ is called reported verb.

To change the tense of Reported Verb, we should follow the **reporting verb**.

If the reporting verb is in **present or future tense**, there will be **no change** of tense in reported verb.

But, if the reporting verb is in **Past tense**, **Reported verb must be changed** as following:

a. Present Indefinite ___ Past indefinite

b. Present Continuous ___ Past Continuous

c. Present Perfect ___ Past Perfect.

d. Past Indefinite ___ Past Perfect.

e. Future ___ Future in the past (would/could/might etc.)

Change of Person:

To change persons of Reported Part, We should maintain the following rules:

a. **First Person** (I, We, Us, Our) will follow the **Subject** of reporting speech.

b. **Second person** (You, your) will follow the **Object** of reporting speech.

c. **Third Person** (He, she, it, name, they, their) will remain **unchanged**.

Change of Words:

We should change few words in the following **three places** of a Direct Speech.

a. **‘said to’** : will be change according to sentence pattern of reported speech.

b. **“ ___ ”** : will be change according to sentence pattern of reported speech.

c. **Other words** will be changed as follow:

today--that day, tomorrow—the next day, yesterday– the previous day, now– then, here– there, at this moment– at that moment, this– that, these_ those etc.

Change of ‘Said to’ and “___”

a. Assertive : told---- that

b. Interrogative: asked ---- if/W-H words (Who, Which, What, Where, Whom, Whose, How, When, Why).

c. Imperative : ordered/requested ---- to + Verb base form

d. Optative: wished/prayed --- that

e. Exclamatory: Exclaimed (with sorrow/joy)---- that

Examples:

1. Soniya said, "I am leaving Bogura this month."
Soniya said that she was leaving Bogura that month. [Indirect]
2. Anjum said to me, "Whose pen is it?"
Anjum asked me whose pen it was. [Indirect]
3. He said to me, "Study attentively."
He advised me to study attentively. [indirect]
4. He said to me, "May Allah bless you."
He prayed that Allah might bless me. [Indirect]
5. Sraban said, "What a wonderful bird it is!"
Sraban exclaimed with surprise/joy that it was a very wonderful bird. [Indirect]

Rules of Passage Narration:

1. To identify the speaker and the listener.
2. To find out the speaker of every sentence.
3. To change the sentences according to the rules.
4. To add connectors where needed.
5. To use addressing as, respectfully said etc.

Suggestions for HSC Exam:

1. "Where do you like to go, sir?" asked the ticket seller. "Cox's Bazar", replied the stranger. "How many tickets do you need?" "I will buy five tickets." "Take these tickets. They will cost three thousand taka.", said the ticket seller.
2. "Why are you loitering here and there now? Are you in trouble?", said the school teacher. "I am loitering because I have none to take care of me.", said the boy. The school teacher said, "Do you feel hungry?" "Yes, I am very hungry now.", said the boy.
3. "My sons," said he, "A great treasure lies hidden in the estate. I am about to leave you." "Where is it hidden?", said the sons. "I am about to tell you.", said the old man. "But you must dig the land for it."
4. The teacher asked the students if they had heard the name of Aesop. The students respectfully replied that they had not and asked the teacher who he had been. The teacher advised them to listen to his lecture attentively and they would be able to know about him. He also exclaimed with wonder that his fables were very interesting and instructive.
5. I told the rickshaw puller that he had carried me a long way. Then I asked him how much I should pay him. I further asked him if fifty taka would do. He replied that anything was alright.
6. Once I asked a little girl what her mother's name was. She replied that she could remember her mother's name but she would not tell me that. She added that she did not tell her mother's name to anyone whom she did not know. I exclaimed with admiration that she was a very clever girl.
7. A cat hearing that a hen was laid up sick in her nest, paid her a visit of condolence and said, "How are you, my dear? What can I do for you? Only tell me. Is there anything in the world that I can bring for you?" "Thank you," said the hen. "Do you be good enough to leave me, and I have no fear but I shall soon be well."
8. "Whose picture is it?" I asked. "A little girl's, of course," said Grandmother. "Can't you tell?" "Yes, but did you know the girl?" "Yes, I knew her," said Granny, "But she was a very wicked girl and I shouldn't tell you about her."
9. Jerry said, "I can chop some wood today." "But I have a boy coming from the orphanage.", said the writer. "I'm the boy." "You? But, you are small." "Size does not matter in chopping wood," Jerry said. "Some of the big boys don't chop good. I've been chopping wood at the orphanage for a long time."
10. "Where is the cattle which these people graze and where are the fields they plough, uncle?" he asked, turning to Daya Ram. "They have no cattle and no fields here," said the chaprasi, pushing his neck back to stiff uprightness. "It is only the rustics in the villages who graze cattle and plough the land" he said.
11. "Stop. Didn't I tell you to stop? You cannot go there," said the sergeant. "Oh! Very well, it is hard thing to be very poor. All the world is against poor," said the man.

12. "Follow my example," she said as we shook hands, "and never eat more than one thing for luncheon." "I'll do better than that," I retorted. "I'll eat nothing for dinner tonight." "Humorist! You are quite a humorist," she cried gaily, jumping into a cab.

Solutions to Suggestion:

1. The ticket seller respectfully asked the stranger where he liked to go. The stranger replied that he wanted to go Cox's Bazar. The ticket seller asked him how many tickets he needed. The stranger replied that he would buy five tickets. The ticket seller requested the stranger to take those tickets and added that they would cost three thousand taka.
2. The school teacher asked the boy why he was loitering here and there then. He also asked if he was in trouble. The boy replied that he was loitering because he had none to take care of him. The school teacher again asked the boy if he felt hungry. The boy replied in the affirmative and said that he was very hungry then.
3. The old man told his sons that a great treasure lied hidden in the estate and added that he was about to leave them. The sons asked the old man where it was hidden. The old man replied that he was about to tell them and added that but they had to dig the land for it.
4. The teacher said to the students, "Have you heard the name of Aesop?" "No, sir. We did not. Who was he?" "Listen to my lecture attentively and you will be able to know about him." "How interesting and instructive his fables are!", said the teacher.
5. I said to the rickshaw puller, "You have carried me a long way." "How much shall I pay you?" "Fifty taka?" "Anything is alright.", said the rickshaw puller.
6. Once I said to a little girl, "What is your mother's name?" "I can remember my mother's name but I will not tell you that. I do not tell my mother's name to anyone whom I do not know.", said the girl. "What a clever girl you are!"
7. A cat hearing that a hen was laid up sick in her nest, paid her a visit of condolence and cordially asked how she was. He again asked what he could do for her. He requested her to tell him. He further asked her if there was anything in the world that he could bring for her. The hen thanked him and requested him to be good enough to leave her and added that she had no fear but she should soon be well.
8. I asked my grandmother whose picture it was. She replied that of course it was a little girl's picture. Then she asked me if I couldn't tell. I replied in the affirmative and asked her if she knew her. Granny replied in the affirmative and said that she had known her. She added that she had been a very wicket girl and she shouldn't tell me about her.
9. Jerry said that he could chop some wood that day. The writer said that but she had a boy coming from the orphanage. Jerry replied that he was the boy. The writer astonishingly asked Jerry if he was the boy and added that he was small. Jerry said that size didn't matter in chopping wood and added that some of the big boys didn't chop good. He also said that he had been chopping wood at the orphanage for a long time.
10. Addressing as uncle he asked Daya Ram where was the cattle which those people gazed and where the fields were they ploughed. The chaprasi, pushing his neck back to stiff uprightness replied that they had no cattle and no fields there and added that it was only the rustics in the villages who grazed cattle and ploughed the land.
11. The sergeant ordered the man to stop and asked him if he had not told him to stop. He also added that he could not go there. The man excitedly said very well and added that it was hard thing to be very poor. He also said that all the world was against poor.
12. As we shook hands she advised me to follow her example and never eat more than one thing for luncheon. I retorted that I would do better than that and added that I would eat nothing for dinner that night. She cried gaily, jumping into a cab and called me a humorist. She also added that I was quite a humorist.

Prepared By:

Md. Osman Gani

Lecturer in English

Majida Khatun Govt. Women's College, Lalmonirhat.

Mobile/WhatsApp: 01737030979