

I. DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

Introduction

There are two ways to convey a message of a person, or the words spoken by a person to other person.

1. Direct speech 2. Indirect speech

Suppose your friend whose name is John tells you in school, “I will give you a pen”. You come to home and you want to tell your brother what your friend told you. There are two ways to tell him.

Direct speech: John said, “I will give you a pen”.

Indirect Speech: John said that he would give me a pen.

In direct speech the original words of person are narrated (no change is made) and are enclosed in quotation mark.

While in indirect speech some changes are made in original words of the person because these words have been uttered in past so the tense will change accordingly and pronoun may also be changed accordingly.

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Indirect speech is also called reported speech because reported speech refers to the second part of indirect speech in which something has been told by a person.

Reporting verb: The verb first part of sentence (i.e. he said, she said, he says, they said, she says,) before the statement of a person in sentence is called reporting verb.

Examples: In all of the following example the reporting verb is “said”.

He said, “I work in a factory” (Direct speech)

He said that he worked in a factory. (Indirect speech)

Reported Speech : The second part of indirect speech in which something has been told by a person (which is enclosed in quotation marks in direct speech) is called reported speech. For example, a sentence of indirect speech is, He said that he worked in a factory. In this sentence the second part

“he worked in a factory” is called reported speech and that is why the indirect speech as a whole can also be called reported speech.

RULES FOR CHANGING DIRECT TO INDIRECT SPEECH

-Rule 1 – The pronoun of the first person in the reported speech is changed according to the subject of the reporting verb.

Direct: He says, “I am in the right”.

Indirect: He says that he is in the right.

-Rule 2 – The pronoun of second person in the reported speech is changed according to the object of the reporting verb.

Direct: He says to me, “You have done your job”.

Indirect: He tells me that I have done my job.

RULES FOR CHANGING DIRECT TO INDIRECT SPEECH

-Rule 3 – The pronoun of the third person in the reported speech remains unchanged.

Direct: He says, “She does not take coffee”.

Indirect: He says that she does not take coffee.

-Rule 4 – If the reporting verb is given in the present or future tense, the tense of the verb is in reported speech.

Direct: The manager says, “Ramesh works hard”.

Indirect: The manager says that Ramesh works hard.

RULES FOR CHANGING DIRECT TO INDIRECT SPEECH

-Rule 5 – If the verb is given in past tense then the tense of the verb in the reported speech is changed into past tense.

Direct: He said, “I am strong”.

Indirect: He said that he was strong.

-Rule 6 – If universal truth, habitual fact, two actions, and imagined condition happening at the same time are given in reported speech, the tense is not changed.

Direct: He said, “God is omni present”.

Indirect: He said that God is omni present.

RULES FOR CHANGING INDIRECT TO DIRECT SPEECH

- Told, asked, advised, requested, suggested, wished, prayed, given in reporting verbs are converted to “said” or “said to”.**
- In case of the pronouns in the reported speech if these are consistent subject of the reporting verb, then covert into first person.**
- If, that, whether, to are converted into inverted commas.**

Example –

- Indirect: He exclaimed with joy that he had won the race.**
- Direct: He said, “Hurrah! I won the race”**

SUMMARY OF RULES FOR CHANGING INDIRECT TO DIRECT SPEECH

Conversion Table

Direct Speech

Indirect Speech

Simple present

He said, "I go to market every day."

Simple past

He said (that) he went to the market every day.

Simple past

He said, "I went to the market every day."

Past perfect

He said (that) he had gone to the market every day.

Present perfect

He said, "I have gone to the market every day."

Past perfect

He said (that) he had gone to the market every day.

Present continuous

He said, "I am going to the market every day."

Past continuous

He said (that) he was going to the market every day.

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| Past continuous He said, "I was going to market every day." | Past perfect continuous He said (that) he had been going to the market every day. |
| Future (will) He said, "I will go to market every day." | Would + verb name He said (that) he would go to the market every day. |
| Future (going to) He said, "I am going to market every day." | Present continuous He said (that) he is going to market every day. |
| Auxiliary +verb name He said, "Do you go to market everyday?" He said, "Where do you go to market?" | Simple past He asked me if I went to market every day. He asked me where I went to market. |
| Imperative He said, "Go to market every day." | Infinitive He said to go to market every day. |

Be careful about Yes / No question in direct speech. When a Yes / No Question is being asked in direct speech, then a construction with **if** or **whether** is used. If a WH question is being asked, then use the WH to introduce the clause.

| Direct Speech | Indirect Speech |
|--|--|
| Simple present + simple present He says, "I go to the market every day." | Simple present + simple present He says (that) he goes to market every day. |
| Present perfect + simple present He has said, "I go to the market every day." | Present perfect + simple present He has said (that) he goes to market every day. |
| Past continuous + simple past He was saying, "I went to market every day." | Past continuous + simple past He was saying (that) he went to market every day. |
| Past continuous + past perfect He was saying, "he had gone to market every day." | Past continuous + simple past He was saying (that) he had gone to market every day. |
| Future + simple present He will say, "I go to market every day." | Future + simple present He will say (that) he goes to market every day. |

CHOOSE CORRECT OPTION

1.The Prime Minister said that no one would be allowed to disturb the peace.

(A) The Prime Minister said, "We shall not allow any one to disturb the peace."

(B) The Prime Minister said, "We would not allow no one to disturb the peace"

(C) The Prime Minister said, "No one will disturb the peace."

(D) The Prime Minister said, "No one can disturb the peace."

2. I said to my friend. "Good Morning. Let us go for a picnic today."

(A) I told good morning to my friend and asked to go for a picnic that day.

(B) I wished my friend good morning and proposed that we should go for a picnic that day.

(C) I wished my friend good morning and proposed that they should go for a picnic that day.

(D) I told good morning to my friend and suggested to go for a picnic today.

CHOOSE CORRECT OPTION

3. The boss said, "It"s time we began planning our work".

- (1) The boss said that it was time they had begun planning their work.**
- (2) The boss said that it was time we had begun planning our work.**
- (3) The boss said that it was time they began planning their work.**
- (4) The boss said that it was time we began planning his work.**

4. My father once said to me, "If I can't trust my people, then I don't want to be doing this."

- (1) His father once told him that if he couldn't trust his people then he didn't want to be doing that.**
- (2) My father once told me that if he couldn't trust his people then he didn't want to be doing that.**
- (3) My father once told me that if he couldn't trust my people then he didn't want to be doing that.**
- (4) My father once told me that if he couldn't trust his people then he didn't want to be doing this.**