

Understanding Direct and Indirect Speech

Master the art of reporting what people say—whether you're quoting their exact words or paraphrasing their message. This essential grammar skill transforms how you communicate in writing and conversation.



What is Direct Speech?



Direct speech reports the **exact words** spoken by someone, preserved in their original form. It captures the speaker's voice precisely as it was heard.

Key Feature

Uses quotation marks to enclose the speaker's original words

Example

Mary said, *"I love reading books."*

What is Indirect Speech?

Indirect speech (also called reported speech) conveys **what someone said** without quoting their exact words. The message is paraphrased while maintaining the original meaning.

Example: Mary said that she loved reading books.

Paraphrasing



No Quotation Marks

The sentence flows naturally without quotes

Paraphrased Form

Words are restructured to fit the reporting context