

What is Direct & Indirect Speech?

Direct Speech: the message of the speaker is conveyed or reported in his own actual words without any change. It is also called as **REPORTED SPEECH**.

Direct: Radha said, "I am very busy now."

Indirect Speech: the message of the speaker is conveyed or reported in our own words.

Example:

Indirect: Radha said that she was very busy then.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
Direct speech reports or quotes the exact words spoken.	Indirect speech is also known as reported speech.
Its purpose is to report exactly that was said by someone by using quotation marks.	Its purpose is to report on what someone said in past.
It is accompanied by a reporting verb, signal phrase, or quotative frame.	It uses reporting verbs such as —say, —tell, —said,—talk, and —speak.
You will keep the verb tense the same in the quotations.	Normally, you will change the verb tense when using indirect speech

Tip 1: Conversion Rules as per the Reporting Verb

When the reporting verb is in the Past Tense, all Present tenses of the direct are changed into the corresponding Past Tenses.

- a) Direct: He said, "I am unwell."
- b) Indirect: He said (that) he was unwell.

If the reporting verb is in the Present or Future Tense, the tenses of the Direct Speech do not change.

- a) Direct: He says/will say, "I am unwell."
- b) Indirect: He says/will say he is unwell.

The Tense in Indirect Speech is NOT CHANGED if the words within the quotation marks talk of a universal truth or habitual action.

- a) Direct: They said, "We cannot live without water."
- b) Indirect: They said that we cannot live without water

Tip 2: Conversion Rules of Present Tense in Direct Speech

Simple Present Changes to Simple Past

- a) Direct: "I am happy", she said.**
- b) Indirect: She said that she was happy.**

Present Continuous Changes to Past Continuous

- a) Direct: "I am reading a book", he explained.**
- b) Indirect: He explained that he was reading a book.**

Present Perfect Changes to Past Perfect

- a) Direct: She said, "He has finished his food."**
- b) Indirect: She said that he had finished his food.**

Present Perfect Continuous Changes to Past Perfect Continuous

- a) Direct: "I have been to Gujarat", he told me.**
- b) Indirect: He told me that he had been to Gujarat.**

Tip 3: Conversion Rules of Past & Future Tense

Simple Past Changes to Past Perfect

- a) Direct: He said, "Ira arrived on Monday."**
- b) Indirect: He said that Ira had arrived on Monday.**

Past Continuous Changes to Past Perfect Continuous

- a) Direct: "We were living in Goa", they told me.**
- b) Indirect: They told me that they had been living in Goa.**

Past Perfect remains Past Perfect

- a) Direct: David said, "I have not met her."**
- b) Indirect: David said that he had not met her.**

Past Perfect Continuous remains Past Perfect Continuous

a) Direct: Jill said —I had been cooking.”

b) Indirect: Jill said that she had been cooking.

Future Simple Changes to Present Conditional

a) Direct: He said, "I will be in Kolkata tomorrow."

b) Indirect: He said that he would be in Kolkata the next day.

Future Continuous Changes to Conditional Continuous

a) Direct: She said, "I'll be using the car next Friday.”

b) Indirect: She said that she would be using the car next Friday.

Future Perfect, will have changes to would have

a) Direct: He said, “ I will have cleaned the room.

b) Indirect: He said that he would have cleaned the room.

Future Perfect Continuous remains Future Perfect Continuous (Will changes to would)

a) Direct: She said, "We will have been watching a movie”

b) Indirect: She said that they would have been watching a movie.

Tip 4: Changes in Modals

CAN changes into COULD

- a) Direct: He said, "I can swim."
- b) Indirect: He said that he could swim.

MAY changes into MIGHT

- a) Direct: He said, "I may buy a house.||
- b) Indirect: He said that he might buy a house.

MUST changes into HAD TO

- a) Direct: He said, "I must work hard.||
- b) Indirect: He said that he had to work hard.

Modals that DO NOT Change: Would, Could, Might, Should, Ought to.

- a) Direct: He said, "I should face the challenge.||
- b) Indirect: He said that he should face the challenge.

Tip 5: Conversion of Interrogative

Reporting Verb like 'said/ said to' changes to asked, enquired or demanded

a) Direct: He said to me, “What are you doing?:

b) Indirect: He asked me what I was doing.

If sentence begins with auxiliary verb, the joining clause should be if or whether.

a) Direct: He said, “Will you come for the meeting?”

b) Indirect: He asked them whether they would come for the meeting.

If sentence begins with 'wh' questions then no conjunction is used as the "question-word" itself act as joining clause.

a) Direct: “Where do you live?” asked the girl.

b) Indirect: The girl enquired where I lived.

Tip 6: Change of Pronouns

The first person of the reported speech changes according to the subject of reporting speech.

- a) Direct: She said, "I am in ninth class."
- b) Indirect: She says that she was in ninth class.

Reporting Verb -	S	O	N
Reported Speech -	1	2	3

The second person of reported speech changes according to the object of reporting speech.

- a) Direct: He says to them, "You have completed your job."
- b) Indirect: He tells them that they have completed their job.

The third person of the reported speech doesn't change.

- a) Direct: He says, "She is in tenth class."
- b) Indirect: He says that she is in tenth class.

Words expressing nearness in time or place in Direct Speech are generally changed into words expressing distance in Indirect Speech.

Now -- then

Here -- there

Ago -- before

Thus -- so

Today -- that day

Tomorrow -- the next day

This -- that

Yesterday -- the day before

These -- those

Hither-- thither

Come -- go

Hence -- thence

Next week/month -- following

week/month

Practice

Change the following into indirect speech

- 1. The girl said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening."**
- 2. The man said, "I must go as soon as possible."**
- 3. The teacher says, "If you work hard, you will pass."**
- 4. He said, "I have won."**
- 5. She said, "I work in an office."**