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Direct and indirect speech



Get cracking

Srikant met Rohit for the first time near a construction site. They were both on a walk. There was a lot of noise and they couldn't hear each other clearly They had to scream in order to be heard. Here is their conversation.

Srikant said, "Good morning. Are you new here?"

Rohit said, "No, I am a lawyer."

"Oh! I thought you are a lawyer," said Srikant.

Rohit said, "No, I am new here."

Now complete these sentences to rewrite their conversation in the *reported speech*.

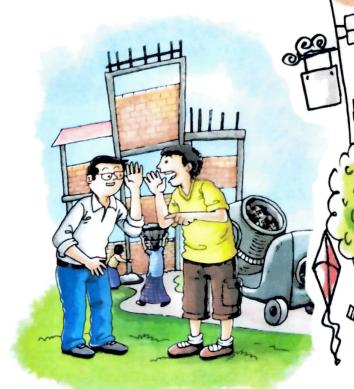
Srikant greeted Rohit and asked him

if	
Rohit replied	
.1	

Srikant told Rohit that he thought

Rohit _____

Rohit replied that



Read the two sentences given below.

Gini said, "I'm tired."

Gini said that she was tired.

the first sentence we have repeated Gini's actual words. This is called direct speech. Note in the meaning of what he said This is called direct speech. Note that inverted commas. In the second sentence we have not repeated Gini's words: we have the inverse the meaning of what he said. This is called the reported (or indirect) speech. have noticed the following changes in the reported statement.

The reported words are introduced by that. (The that can be omitted.)

The inverted commas are removed.

The verb am has become was.

The pronoun I has become he.

Here are detailed notes on the changes that should be made when we turn direct speech into reported speech.

When the reporting verb (e.g. the verb said in the example above) is in the past tense, the tenses of the verb in direct speech usually change as follows:

, the simple present changes to the simple past.

He said, "Anne looks sad." Direct

He said Anne looked sad. Reported:

. the present continuous changes to the past continuous.

He said, "I'm writing to my uncle." Direct

He said that he was writing to his uncle. Reported:

· the present perfect changes to the past perfect.

She said, "I've finished the work." Direct

She said she had finished the work. Reported:

the simple past changes to the past perfect or stays the same.

"They went for a picnic," Ramesh said to me. Direct

Ramesh told me they had gone (or went) for a picnic. Reported:

the will/can/may forms change to the would/could/might forms.

The boy said, "My father will be back soon." Direct

The boy said his father would be back soon. Reported:

"He may pass the exam." Isha said to us. Direct

Isha told us he might pass the exam. Reported:

the past continuous and the past perfect stay the same.

When the reporting verb is in the present tense, the tenses do not change.

He says, "I'm feeling ill." Direct He says he is feeling ill.

Reported She has just said, "I've finished the work." Direct

She has just said she has finished the work. Reported:

The pronouns change according to the context or situation.

Study these examples:

Direct: "I'll call you at five," he said to me.

Reported: He told me he would call me at five.

Direct: "I'll call you at five," she said to him.

Reported: She told him she would call him at five.

Direct: "I'll call you at five," I said to her.
Reported: I told her I would call her at five.

Words or phrases expressing nearness in time generally change to those expressing distance. Study the table below.

Direct speech	Reported speech
now/today/tonight	then/at that time/that day/that night
last (week, month)	the previous (week, month, etc.)/the (week, month) before
next (month, year)	the next (month, year, etc.)/the (month, year) after
vesterday	the previous day/the day before
tomorrow	the next day/the following day/the day after

But if the speech is made and reported during the same period, these changes are not necessary. Read the sentences below.

Direct: On last Friday he said, "My father will come today."

Reported: On last Friday he said his father would come that day.

Direct: This afternoon he said, "My father will come today."

Reported: This afternoon he said his father would come today.

Similarly, here changes to there unless the speech is reported at the same place; this and these change to that and those unless the thing or things pointed out are near at hand at the time of reporting the speech.

We use say when we do not mention the person spoken to.

Tom said he was busy.

We use tell when we mention the person spoken to.

Tom told me he was busy.

Common errors

He said me he was busy.

He told he was busy. ✓



	Lange the following into the reported sneech
A. C	Ravi said, "I am free."
1.	Ravi Said that he was free
	She said, "I'm reading an interesting book."
3.	"I've done my homework already, "he said." He Said that hes done his homework
4.	"I paid ₹75 for the basket," she said to us. She told us that she paid 75 7 for
5.	She said, "I forgot to post the letter." She said that she forgot to post
6.	"I've bought jeans," Anand said.
	Arond soid that he'd hought new
7.	"I like orange juice," she said. Jeens. She sold that she liked orange price
8.	"I was reading all afternoon," he said.
9.	"My uncle may come tomorrow," he said to me.
	he told me that his undernatione
10.	"I have just bought the tickets," he said.
11.	"I'll meet you again," he said to me.
12.	"I may see you again this evening," I said to her.
	I told her that I might see her again that
13.	"My grandfather will be sixty tomorrow," she said (three days ago).
14.	"My grandfather will be sixty tomorrow," she said (this morning).
15	She said that her grand pa would be 60 the
15.	"We saw the exhibition three days ago," she said. following
16.	"I didn't see Mohan at the theatre," he said.
	he said the he solidht see Mohan at the
	theater
	P.O.

- 17. "I've lost the key," he said.
- 18. Suresh said, "She's coming tomorrow."
- 19. "I don't know his phone number," she said.
- 20. "My father has gone out," said the boy.

Pattern of reported orders and requests

The pattern of reported orders and requests is: reporting verb (tell/ask) + person spoken to + to-infinitive. We tell or ask somebody to do something. We often use tell in reported orders and ask in reported requests. We can also use verbs like order, command, advise and request.

he had lose

Direct: "Clean the blackboard," the teacher said to the boy.

Reported: The teacher told the boy to clean the blackboard.

Direct: "Turn off the TV," she said.

Reported: She told him to turn off the TV.

Direct : "Don't talk loud," he said to the children.

Reported: He told the children not to talk loud.

Direct: "Please open the window," she said.

Reported: She requested him to open the window.

Direct : "Don't shoot!" said the officer.

Reported: The officer ordered the soldier not to shoot.

Direct : "Improve your spelling," the teacher said.

Reported: The teacher advised me to improve my spelling.

The teacher advised the students to improve their spelling.

Shote

Don't + go/speak/drive and so on

not to go/speak/drive and so on (Not: to not go/speak/drive and so on)

- B. Change these sentences into the reported speech.
 - 1. "Come in," he said to her.

he asked her to come in

"Don't make a noise," he said to the boys.

he told the boys to not make noise



3.	"Please help me with the homework," Radha said to her mother.
	action to the state of the stat
4.	"Take the tablets before meals," the doctor said to her. her no mework
5.	"Tran I go uticle, the sain
6.	"please don't disturb me," she said. She requested not to disturb her
7.	"Don't touch the wire!" they said.
8.	"Wash your face," she said to the boy.
9.	uplance give me a glace of and mi
	he requested a glass of water
10.	"Don't drive so fast," I said.
M	rs Das has four children: Isha, Tarun, Anmol and Ria. Yesterday, she was ill, so she ld her children to do certain things. Report what she said.
	Sweep the house, Isha.
1.	She told Isha to Sweep the house
2.	Wash the plates, Anmol. She told Anmol to wosh the plates
3.	Water the plants, Ria. She talking to worter the plants
4.	Clean the windows, Tarun. She Hold Joyun to Clean temperature
5.	Don't forget to feed the dog, Isha. She to Tsha fond said to seed the
6.	Go to the market, Anmol and Ria. dog
7.	Boil the eggs, Tarun.
8.	Make tea, Anmol. She told which to make tea.

Question sentences

Study the following sentences.

1. Direct : "What are you doing?" the policeman said to them.

Reported: The policeman asked them what they were doing.

Direct : "Where have you put my glasses?" she asked.

Reported: She asked where he had put her glasses.

3. Direct : "What do you want?" I asked.

Reported: I asked what she wanted.

4. Direct : He said, "Who phoned you?"

Reported: He asked who had phoned me.

Direct : "Have you switched off the TV?" she said.

Reported: She asked whether I had switched off the TV.

6. Direct : "Are you from Nepal?" I asked.

Reported: I enquired whether they were from Nepal.

7. Direct : "Is your father in?" he asked.

Reported: He enquired whether my father was in.

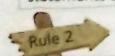
8. Direct : "Can you drive?" I asked her.

Reported: I asked whether she could drive.

Here are some rules we follow while changing questions into reported speech.



Tenses and pronouns in reported questions change in the same way as in reported statements and commands.



Reported questions do not have the same word order (auxiliary + subject) as direct questions often have. As in statements, the verb comes after the subject. *Do/does/did* is not used. Question marks are removed.



If the question begins with a question word (what, when, where, who), this word serves as a link between the reporting verb and the reported question. (See examples 1 to 4.)



If the direct question has no question word (if the question is one which can be answered by Yes or No), the conjunction whether or if is placed before the reported question. (See examples 5 to 8.)

homework. D. Rewrite the following in the reported speech. 1. "Where have they gone?" he said. "Have they gone to the park?" I asked her. "Why are you smiling?" he said. "Will you return the CDs tomorrow?" I said. "Who told you the news?" I said to her. 6. "Is that the Town Hall?" he asked. 7. "Did you record that television programme?" he said. 8. "How old are you?" he said to me. 9. "Have they videoed the function?" I asked. 10. "Where do you work?" he said. 11. "How long have you been waiting?" I asked her. 12. "Do you know how to operate the computer?" he said to me. 13. "Did you see Tom at the party?" he asked. 14. "Can you swim?" I asked her. 15. "Has the film come out on video?" I asked them.

Fill	in each blank by choosing the correct word from the brackets.
	They sell in this shop. (stationary/stationery)
	The sweater is made of material. (course/coarse)
3.	We play hockey and tennis on days. (alternate/alternative)
4.	Who is the <u>principale</u> of your school? (principle/principal)
5.	I'm reading; please be (quiet/quite)
6.	Go to the and buy a kilo of butter. (diary/dairy)
7.	This medicine will your wounds. (heel/heal)
8.	The is very hot today. (weather/whether)
9.	I am going to book a for the journey. (birth/berth)
10.	I often my keys. (lose/loose)
11.	I you to read this book. (advice/advise)
12.	They have found a suitable for the college. (site/sight)
13.	He sat me on the bench. (beside/besides)
14.	Who will you for? (canvas/canvass)
15.	He cenze my bag and ran off. (seized/ceased)
16	His problems had a bad on him. (affect/effect)
17	Don't work so hard; it can your health. (affect/effect)
18.	There were four people in the room, me and Anand. (beside/besides)
19.	This shirt is very; it doesn't fit me. (lose/loose)

This is the shortest ______ to the airport. (route/root)



19.

20.