

## EL ESTILO INDIRECTO (REPORTED SPEECH)

Podemos contar lo que alguien dijo de dos maneras: repitiendo las palabras exactas, es decir, empleando el estilo directo ("I have to go now," she said); o repitiendo la idea, pero no las palabras exactas, a lo que llamamos "estilo indirecto" (She said that she had to go then).

En el estilo directo se utilizan las comillas y la letra mayúscula al empezar la cita.

En el estilo indirecto:

- no hay comillas, la frase puede empezar con un verbo como SAY, TELL, ASK, INQUIRE, THINK, EXPLAIN, COMPLAIN, WARN, POINT OUT, REMARK, DECLARE, etc. al que llamamos "reporting verb".
- El tiempo de la narración da una especie de "salto atrás" si el verbo que lo introduce va en pasado. Las preguntas dejan de serlo y el verbo auxiliar ya no va en posición inicial.
- Las palabras que indican lugar, tiempo, los pronombres, etc. deben cambiar lógicamente.

(NOTA: Después de los verbos SAY, TELL y THINK podemos omitir "that". Sin embargo, con verbos como EXPLAIN, COMPLAIN, POINT OUT, etc. "that" no se puede omitir).

### SAY and TELL

Los verbos más comunes para introducir el estilo indirecto son SAY y TELL, pero siguen diferentes normas:

#### 1. SAY

- Si lleva complemento indirecto siempre lleva la preposición TO:  
*"The police caught the robber," he said.*  
*He said to me that the police had caught the robber.*
- Si no lleva complemento indirecto va seguido de la frase en estilo indirecto.  
*He said that the police had caught the robber.*
- En ambos casos se puede omitir THAT:  
*He said to me the police had caught the robber.*  
*He said the police had caught the robber.*
- No puede utilizarse para poner órdenes o instrucciones en estilo indirecto.

#### 2. TELL

Siempre lleva un complemento indirecto, sin preposición:

*Alex told her friends that she wanted to be famous.*

Se utiliza para poner órdenes e instrucciones en estilo indirecto:

*He told me to be quiet.*

*The boss told them to fix the machine.*

### 1. LAS ASEVERACIONES (oraciones afirmativas y negativas)

#### a) Los cambios en los tiempos:

Si el verbo que introduce el estilo indirecto está en pasado, el tiempo que teníamos en el estilo directo sufre un cambio, "un salto atrás". Lo mismo ocurre con los verbos auxiliares.

*"I have read the note", she said.*

*She said (that) she had read the note.*

*"He is working in the office now", they told me.*

*They told me (that) he was working in the office then.*

Si el verbo está compuesto de más de un auxiliar, sólo cambia el primero.

*"My house is being redecorated", she said.*

*She said (that) her house was being redecorated.*

Estos cambios no ocurren cuando el verbo que introduce el estilo indirecto está en presente o en futuro, o cuando se trata de narrar una verdad permanente o una acción habitual.

*"Peter lives in High Street", she told me.*

*She told me (that) Peter lives in High Street.*

## b) Otros cambios

Las expresiones de tiempo y lugar cambian de la siguiente manera:

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
now	then
today	that day
here	there
this	that
today	that day
tonight	that night
these	those
this week	that week
tomorrow	the following day the next day the day after
next week	the following week the next week the week after

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
yesterday	the previous day the day before
last week	the previous week the week before
ago	previously before
2 weeks ago	2 weeks previously 2 weeks before
tonight	that night
last Saturday	the previous Saturday the Saturday before
next Saturday	the following Saturday the next Saturday the Saturday after that Saturday

- Los pronombres y los adjetivos posesivos normalmente cambian de la primera a la tercera persona, de la segunda a la primera y la tercera se queda igual, excepto cuando el hablante está repitiendo sus propias palabras, o se dice la persona a la que se le está hablando.
- Los cambios en pronombres, posesivos...obedecen siempre a la lógica del discurso.

## 2. LAS ORDENES

Las ordenes se suelen expresar en estilo indirecto con la siguiente estructura:

**Sujeto + verbo introductor + objeto + to + infinitivo.**

*He said, "Stay here."*

*He told us to stay there.*

Si la orden es negativa, utilizamos la misma estructura pero con NOT delante de to + infinitivo:

*He said, "Don't talk."*

*He told me not to talk.*

El verbo que introduce el estilo indirecto debe indicar "mandar", por eso nunca se puede usar SAY (decir) para introducir una orden indirecta. El verbo TELL, que sí significa "mandar", debe llevar un complemento de persona, a quien se da la orden.

*He said, "Be quiet."*

*He told us to be quiet.*

Además de TELL se pueden emplear otros verbos con sentido semejante como ASK (pedir), BEG (rogar, suplicar), ORDER (pedir), WARN (advertir), etc.

## 3. LAS PREGUNTAS

Las oraciones interrogativas indirectas pueden ir introducidas por los verbos:

ASK (preguntar)

INQUIRE (preguntar)

WONDER (preguntarse)

WOULD LIKE TO KNOW (querría saber)

WANT TO KNOW (querer saber)

### A) Preguntas del tipo YES/NO

Las YES/NO questions van introducidas por las conjunciones IF o WHETHER.

*"Did you speak to John last night?" she asked.*

*She asked if/whether I had spoken to John the previous night.*

*"Are you working these days?" he inquired.*

*He inquired if/whether I was working those days.*

### b) Preguntas con partícula interrogativa

Al poner en estilo indirecto una pregunta de este tipo mantenemos la partícula interrogativa en lugar de poner IF. El orden de las palabras de la pregunta original cambia al orden de una oración declarativa. El sujeto va inmediatamente detrás de la partícula interrogativa, y el verbo detrás del sujeto.

*He asked, "Where do you live?"*



*He asked where I lived.*

Todos los demás cambios son idénticos a las preguntas del tipo YES/NO pero:

- Si la **partícula interrogativa es el sujeto de la oración, no hay alteración del orden de las palabras de la frase.**

*"Who told you this story?" he asked.*

*He asked who had told us that story.*

#### 4. LAS PETICIONES, SUGERENCIAS

##### a) Peticiones:

**ASK + COMPLEMENTO + INFINITIVO (acción)**

**ASK FOR + COMPLEMENTO (cosa)**

*"Would you mind not leaving your car here?"*

*Someone **asked me not to leave** my car there.*

*"Can I have some water, please?"*

*He asked me **for some water**.*

##### b) Sugerencias:

**SUGGEST + GERUNDIO**

*"Let's go out."*

*Tony **suggested going** out.*

**SUGGEST + THAT + SUJETO + INFINITIVO**

*"What about going to the cinema?"*

*My friend **suggested that we go** to the cinema.*

**SUGGEST + THAT + SUJETO + SHOULD + INFINITIVO**

*"Why don't we buy a new car?"*

*He **suggested that we should buy** a new car.*

##### c) Consejos:

**ADVISE + INFINITIVO**

*"You'd better phone the police."*

*She advised me to phone the police.*

##### d) Advertencias:

**WARN + INFINITIVO**

*"Don't be late."*

*I warned you not to be late.*

##### e) Amenazas:

**THREAT + INFINITIVO**

*"If you don't go, I'll call the police."*

*He threatened to call the police.*

##### f) Insistencia:

**INSIST ON + GERUNDIO**

*"We simply must take a taxi."*

*They insisted on taking a taxi.*

##### g) Rechazos:

**REFUSE + INFINITIVO**

*"I'm not going to wait any longer."*

*He refused to wait any longer.*

##### h) Promesas:

**PROMISE + INFINITIVO**

*"I'll send you a postcard."*

*She promised to send us a postcard.*

##### i) Ofrecimientos:

**OFFER + INFINITIVO**

*"I'll help you if you like."*

*Paul offered to help her.*

##### j) Invitaciones:

**INVITE + COMPLEMENTO + INFINITIVO**

*"Would you like to have lunch with us?"*

*The Smiths invited us to lunch.*

#### 5. EXCLAMACIONES

Para pasar una exclamación a estilo indirecto es mejor usar una paráfrasis que refleje el espíritu de la exclamación original.

*"Hello!"*

*He greeted me.*

*"Damn! "*

*He swore.*



## CAMBIOS EN LOS TIEMPOS VERBALES:

DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT (REPORTED) SPEECH
SIMPLE PRESENT	SIMPLE PAST
"I <u>work</u> at Toyota." "I <u>don't work</u> at Honda." "I <u>am</u> a manager." "I <u>m not</u> a salesman."	He said he <u>worked</u> at Toyota. He said he <u>didn't work</u> at Honda. He said he <u>was</u> a manager. He said he <u>wasn't</u> a salesman.
PRESENT PROGRESSIVE	PAST PROGRESSIVE
"I'm <u>cleaning</u> my house today." "I'm <u>not going</u> to work today." "She <u>isn't singing</u> in the show."	He said he <u>was cleaning</u> his house today. He said he <u>wasn't going</u> to work today. He said she <u>wasn't singing</u> in the show.
PRESENT PERFECT	PAST PERFECT
"I've <u>already seen</u> that movie." "I <u>haven't heard</u> that song before." "Gary <u>has called</u> three times." "He hasn't left any messages though."	She said she <u>had</u> already <u>seen</u> that movie. She said she <u>hadn't heard</u> that song before. Jack said Gary <u>had called</u> three times. He said Gary <u>hadn't left</u> any messages though.
PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS	PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS
"Jeff <u>has been exercising</u> ." "He <u>hasn't been studying</u> ." "Celine and Lee <u>have been working</u> ." "They <u>haven't been sleeping</u> ."	She said Jeff <u>had been exercising</u> . She said he <u>hadn't been studying</u> . Ling said they <u>had been working</u> . She said they <u>hadn't been sleeping</u> .
SIMPLE PAST	PAST PERFECT
"I <u>saw</u> my friend." "I <u>didn't see</u> Monika." "I <u>was</u> late." "I <u>wasn't</u> on time."	She said she <u>had seen</u> his friend. She said she <u>hadn't seen</u> Monika. He said he <u>had been</u> late. He said he <u>hadn't been</u> on time.
PAST PERFECT	PAST PERFECT (doesn't change)
"He had worked as a policeman."	She said that he had worked as a policeman.
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS	PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS (doesn't change)
"They had been watching a film."	She said that they had been watching a film.
FUTURE SIMPLE	CONDITIONAL
"I <u>WILL WASH</u> THE DISHES."	He said that he would wash the dishes.
FUTURE PERFECT	PERFECT CONDITIONAL
"I will have bought it by Thursday."	He said that he would have bought it by Thursday.
FUTURE CONTINUOUS	CONTINUOUS CONDITIONAL
"I will be having tea at 8 pm."	She said that she would be having tea at 8 pm.
PRESENT MODALS	PAST MODALS
"I <u>will</u> wash the dishes." "I <u>won't</u> go."	She said she <u>would</u> wash the dishes. He said he <u>wouldn't</u> go.
"I <u>can</u> dance." "I <u>can't</u> swim."	He said he <u>could</u> dance. He said he <u>couldn't</u> swim.
"There <u>may</u> be a problem." "There <u>may not</u> be any milk left." (No contraction)	She said there <u>might</u> be a problem. She said there <u>might not</u> be any milk left. (No contraction)
HAVE TO / HAS TO and MUST	HAD TO
"I <u>have to</u> clean my room." "I <u>don't have to</u> clean the kitchen."	He said he <u>had to</u> clean his room. He said he <u>didn't have to</u> clean the kitchen.
"Sara <u>has to</u> work today." "She <u>doesn't have to</u> go to class."	Peter said Sara <u>had to</u> work today. He said she <u>didn't have to</u> go to class.
"I <u>must</u> go to the store." (No negative form possible)	She said she <u>had to</u> go to the store. (No negative form possible)
THESE MODALS DO <u>NOT</u> CHANGE: would, should, could, might, ought to, USED TO	
"I <u>would</u> like a sandwich."	He said he <u>would</u> like a sandwich.
"I <u>couldn't</u> go to the party."	She said she <u>couldn't</u> go to the party.
"It <u>might</u> rain today."	The weatherman said it <u>might</u> rain today.
"You really <u>ought to</u> do your homework."	The teacher said I really <u>ought to</u> do my homework.
"You <u>should</u> be nicer to your sister."	My mom said I <u>should</u> be nicer to my sister.
"I used to be a teacher."	She said that she used to be a teacher.