

22



NARRATION/REPORTING

[Special stress has been given on the use of *Question Tags* :
Can / Can't they? Do they / don't they? (Ali can speak English well, *Can't he?*)
In the New Syllabus in Madhyamik Level in Bangladesh to be introduced from 2005.]

In English, as in our mother-tongue, we need to report messages, speeches, comments, requests etc. of a person or persons to others.

আমাদের মাতৃভাষার মতো ইংরেজিতেও কোনো একজনের সংবাদ, বক্তব্য, অনুরোধ ইত্যাদি অন্য কাউকে report করতে হয় বা জানাতে হয়।

We may report the words of a speaker in two ways :

(আমরা দুভাবে বক্তার কথাকে report করতে পারি।)

[1] We may quote his actual words. This is called Direct Speech.

(বক্তার নিজস্ব কথা উদ্ধৃত করলে তাকে বলা হয় Direct Speech)

[2] We may report what he said without quoting his exact words. This is called Indirect or Reported Speech.

(বক্তার নিজস্ব কথা উদ্ধৃত না করে তার বক্তব্যকে পরোক্ষভাবে report

করলে হয় Indirect Speech বা Reported Speech)

Mrs. Smith says, "I am ill." (Direct Speech)

Mrs. Smith says that she is ill. (Indirect Speech)



PUNCTUATION OF DIRECT SPEECH

(প্রত্যক্ষ উক্তির ঘটিচ্ছ)

The speech which is under Quotation marks or Inverted commas in writing is called *Direct Speech* and the verb by which it is expressed is called *Reporting Verb*.

[যে উক্তি লেখার সময় Quotation Marks বা Inverted Comma-র মধ্যে উদ্ধৃত করা হয় তাকে Direct Speech এবং যে Verb-এর সাহায্যে ঐ উক্তি প্রকাশ করা হয়, তাকে Reporting Verb বলে।]

Three Features of Direct Speech (Direct Speech-এর তিনটি বৈশিষ্ট্য) :

(i) In writing, the Direct Speech is put within Inverted commas ("...") to mark-off the exact words of the speaker.

Of course, in dialogues, Inverted Commas are often left out.

(লেখার সময় Direct Speech-টি Inverted Comma-র মধ্যে থাকে। অবশ্য Dialogue-এ প্রায়ই Inverted Comma থাকে না।)

(ii) A **Comma** is used after **Reporting Verb**.

Of course, in dialogues, **Reporting Verb** and **Comma** are not needed.

(Reporting Verb-এর পর একটি Comma বসে। অবশ্য Dialogue বা সংলাপে Reporting Verb এবং Comma-র প্রয়োজন হয় না।)

(iii) **The first letter** of the Direct Speech is a **Capital letter**.

(Direct Speech-এর প্রথম অক্ষরটি Capital Letter হয়।)

Now read the following table :

DIRECT SPEECH

Speaker	Reporting Verb	Direct Speech
Sitesh	said,	"I am very busy".

INDIRECT SPEECH

Reporter	Reporting Verb	Linker	Reported Speech
Sitesh	said	that	he was very busy.

It will be noticed that, in changing the Direct Speech into Indirect, certain grammatical changes have been made. (লক্ষ করো, উপরের Direct Speech-কে Indirect করার জন্য কিছু পরিবর্তন করা হয়েছে।) :

- (i) We have used the linker '**that**' before the Reported Speech or Indirect statement. [Reported Speech বা Indirect statement-এর (পরোক্ষ উক্তির) পূর্বে আমরা একটি linker (সংযোজক) '**that**' বসিয়েছি।]
- (ii) The pronoun '**I**' is changed to '**he**'. [**I** সর্বনামটি **he**-তে পরিবর্তিত হয়েছে।]
- (iii) The verb '**am**' is changed to '**was**'. [**am** ক্রিয়াটি **was**-এ পরিবর্তিত হয়েছে।]

RULES FOR CHANGING DIRECT SPEECH INTO INDIRECT

[**Direct Speech** থেকে **Indirect**-এ পরিবর্তন করার নিয়ম]

- (i) We use a **linker** before the Indirect Speech :
(Indirect Speech-এর পূর্বে একটি **linker** বা সংযোজক ব্যবহার করতে হয়।)
Direct : He said, "I am busy."
Indirect : He said **that** he was busy.
N.B. The linker **that** is often omitted in Spoken English.

- (ii) The **Pronouns** are changed according to sense :

(অর্থ অনুযায়ী **Pronoun**-এর পরিবর্তন হয়।)

Direct : Salil said, "I do not like milk in my tea."

Indirect : Salil said that **he** does not like milk in his tea

Direct : Salil said to his friend, "You are ill."

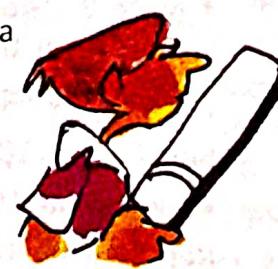
Indirect : Salil told his friend that **he** was ill.

Direct : Salil said to me, "You will not play."

Indirect : Salil told me that **I** would not play.

Direct : I said to you, "I don't believe you."

Indirect : I said (that) **I** didn't believe you.



(iii) If the Reporting Verb is in the **Past Tense**, we must make the following changes : (যদি **Reporting Verb**-টি **Past Tense**-এ থাকে, তাহলে আমাদের নিম্নলিখিত পরিবর্তনগুলি করতে হয়।)

CHANGE OF TENSES

Direct

- a. Present Indefinite
- b. Present continuous
- c. Present Perfect Continuous
- d. Past indefinite }
- e. Present perfect }
- f. Past perfect }
- g. Past continuous
- h. Future (shall/will)

becomes

becomes

becomes

becomes

becomes

becomes

Indirect

- Past Indefinite
- Past continuous
- Past Perfect Continuous
- Past perfect
- Past perfect continuous
- Future (should/would)

Change in Time and Place expressions in Past Tense

now becomes then

here becomes there

ago before hence " thence

today that day this " that

tonight that night these " those

tomorrow the next day thus " that way

yesterday the previous day thus " so

last night the previous night come " go (not always)

* Note 1. Students often change '**it**' into '**that**' in the indirect. But that is wrong. It remains unchanged.

[ছাত্রছাত্রীরা প্রায়ই '**it**'-কে '**that**'-এ পরিণত করে। এটি ভুল। '**It**' indirect-এ অপরিবর্তিত থাকে।]

Direct : The boy said, "I'll do the work **now**."

Indirect : The boy said that he would do the work **then**.

Direct : He said, "I am glad to be **here this evening**."

Indirect : He said that he was glad to be **there that evening**.

Direct : He said, "I shall go to Delhi **tomorrow**."

Indirect : He said that he would go to Delhi **the next day**.

Direct : I said to him, "I may **come** to your office."

Indirect : I told him that I might **go** to his office.

Direct : He said, "I have never seen anything like **it**."

Indirect : He said that he had never seen anything like **it**.

* Note 2. The changes do not occur if the speech is reported during the same period or at the same place :

[বক্তব্যটি একই সময়ে বা একই জায়গায় report করা হলে উপরিউক্ত পরিবর্তনগুলি করার প্রয়োজন হ্যনা।]

Speaker (at 10 a.m.) : The Inspector **will** visit our school **today**.

Reporter (at 10 a.m.) : He **says** that the Inspector **will** visit their school **today**.

Reporter (next day) : He **said** that the Inspector **would** visit their school **that day**.

Speaker (in Kolkata) : Sir Asutosh Mukherjee was born **here**.



Reporter (in Kolkata, but after a few days) : He said that Sir Asutosh Mukherjee was born *here*.

Reporter (in Delhi) : He said that Sir Asutosh Mukherjee was born *there*.

NARRATION OF ASSERTIVE SENTENCE (বিবৃতিসূচক বাক্য)

Direct : He said, "I do it."

Indirect : He said that he *did* it.

Direct : He said, "I am writing a letter."

Indirect : He said that he *was writing* a letter.

Direct : He said, "I have been suffering from fever".

Indirect : He said that he *had been suffering* from fever.

Direct : He said, "I wrote a letter."

Indirect : He said that he *had written* a letter.

Direct : He said, "I have passed the examination".

Indirect : He said that he *had passed* the examination.

Direct : He said, "I had passed the examination."

Indirect : He said that he *had passed* the examination.

Direct : He said, "I was playing football."

Indirect : He said that he *had been playing* football.

Direct : He said, "I shall play football."

Indirect : He said that he *would play* football.

*Note 1. In Assertive sentence **Linker 'that'** is used.

[Assertive sentence-এ **Linker 'that'** ব্যবহৃত হয়।]

*Note 2. If the Reporting Verb is in the **Present or Future Tense**, the tense of the Verb of the Direct Speech is not changed at all.

[যদি Reporting Verb-টি Present বা Future Tense-এ থাকে, তাহলে Direct Speech-কে Indirect করার সময় Verb-এর tense-এর কোনো পরিবর্তন হয় না।]

Direct : The farmer says, "I *am* busy."

Indirect : The farmer says that he *is* busy.

Direct : The farmer will say, "I *am* busy."

Indirect : The farmer will say that he *is* busy.

*Note 3. In case of a **habitual truth** or **eternal truth**, no change of tense is required.

[বক্তব্যটি যদি অভ্যাসগত সত্য বা চিরসত্য বোঝায়, তাহলে tense-এর কোনো পরিবর্তন হয় না।]

Bimal said "I *walk* for an hour every morning".

Bimal said that he *walks* for an hour every morning. } **Habitual truth**

The teacher said "The sun *rises* in the east".

The teacher said that the sun *rises* in the east. } **Eternal truth**



*Note 4. Normally, there are no changes in the Verb Forms of the **Modal Auxiliaries** like *must*, *ought to* and *should*; though *should* often becomes *would* for corresponding persons of the Subject and *had to* is often used in place of *must*.

[সাধারণত *must*, *ought to* এবং *should*-এর মতো Modal Auxiliary-গুলির কোনো পরিবর্তন হয় না, যদিও কখনো কখনো *must*-এর জায়গায় *had to* বসে এবং *should*-এর জায়গায় Subject-এর *person* পরিবর্তন অনুযায়ী *would* বসে।]

Direct : She said, "We ought to jump."

Indirect : She said that **they ought** to jump.

Direct : "We must go", she said.

Indirect : She said that **they must go/had to go**.

Direct : Niren said to me, "I should be grateful if you help me."

Indirect : Niren told me that **he would** be grateful if I helped him.

But the **should** of obligation is not changed. [কিন্তু উচিত অর্থে **should** পরিবর্তন হয় না।]

Bimal said to him, "You **should** be more careful."

Bimal told him that he **should** be more careful.

*Note 5. Reporting Verb becomes '**say**' where there is no Object and it becomes '**tell**' where there is Object. In Indirect Speech, "**said to him**", "**said to me**" etc. before '**that**' are not good English. Write "**told him**", "**told me**" etc. [Object না থাকলে 'say' এবং Object থাকলে Reporting Verb 'tell' হয়। Indirect Speech-এ **that**-এর পূর্বে **said to him**, **said to me** ইত্যাদি ভালো ইংরেজি নয়; এরপ স্থলে **told him**, **told me** এরপ লেখা উচিত।]

EXERCISE I

A. Report the following sentences in Indirect Speech :

- 
- 
1. The teacher said to the boy, "You have forgotten the lesson."
 2. The boy said, "I shall go out and play."
 3. He said, "I am happy to be here today."
 4. They said, "We shall play the game again tomorrow."
 5. The boy said, "Two and two make four."
 6. "I have lost my books and yours too," she told them.
 7. The princess says, "I have lost my way."
 8. They say, "We must keep our locality clean."
 9. The girl says, "These books are theirs, but this one is mine."
 10. The Happy Prince said, "I led the dance in the great hall."

B. Use different forms of tenses of the verb 'write' as in the following example

and then change the narration. (নীচের উদাহরণের মতো 'write' verb-এর বিভিন্ন tense-এর বাক্য গঠন করো এবং Narration পরিবর্তন করো।)

Tense	Direct	Indirect
Simple Present	Mrinal said, "I write a letter"
Pr. Continuous	Mrinal said, "....."
Pr. Perfect	Mrinal said, "....."
Pr. Perfect Cont.	Mrinal said, "....."
Simple Past	Mrinal said, "....."
Past Continuous	Mrinal said, "....."
Past Perfect	Mrinal said, "....."
Simple Future	Mrinal said, "....."

NARRATION OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCE

(প্রশ্নামূলক বাক্য)

Rules of Change :

- (i) If the Direct Speech is in Interrogative sentence, Reporting Verbs such as *say*, *tell* etc. are changed into *ask*, *enquire*, *want to know* etc. in the Indirect Speech and the Verb takes an object.

[যদি Direct Speech-টি Interrogative বাক্যে থাকে, তাহলে *say*, *tell* প্রভৃতি Reporting Verb Indirect Speech-এ *ask*, *enquire*, *want to know* ইত্যাদিতে পরিবর্তিত হয় এবং এই Verb-এর পর একটি Object বসে।]

- (ii) If the Direct Speech begins with some 'wh' question word, such as *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, *how*, etc., these are retained in the Indirect Speech.

[যদি Direct Speech-টি *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, *how* ইত্যাদি প্রশ্নবোধক শব্দ দিয়ে শুরু হয়, তবে ওই প্রশ্নবোধক শব্দগুলি Indirect Speech-এ থেকে যায়।]

- (iii) But if the Direct Speech does not begin with such question words, *if* or *whether* is used as the linker.

[কিন্তু যদি Direct Speech-টি *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, *how* প্রভৃতি কোনো প্রশ্নবোধক শব্দ দিয়ে শুরু না হয়, তাহলে সংযোজক শব্দ হিসাবে *if* বা *whether* বসে।]

- (iv) The order of words in the Indirect Speech is changed from the Interrogative construction to the Assertive construction and the note of interrogation (?) becomes Fullstop (.).

[Indirect Speech-এ প্রশ্নবোধক বাক্যের গঠন বিবৃতিমূলক বাক্যের গঠনে পরিবর্তিত হয়ে যায় এবং প্রশ্নচিহ্ন (?) ফুলস্টপ হয়ে যায় (.)।]

QUESTIONS BEGINNING WITH DO/DOES/DID/IS/AM/ARE ETC.

[YES - NO QUESTIONS]



Direct : "Do you know the way to the station?" She said to Mahim.

Indirect : She *asked* Mahim *if* (*whether*) he knew the way to the station.

Direct : "Does she require any help?" the old man asked me.

Indirect : The old man *asked* me *if* she required any help.

Direct : I said to the boy, "Did you go to school?"

Indirect : I *asked* (*enquired of*) the boy *if* he had gone to school.

Direct : "Is not poverty a curse?" my father said to me.

Indirect : My father *asked* me *if* poverty was (*is*) not a curse.

Direct : "Are you weeping?" he asked her.

Indirect : He *asked* her *if* she was weeping.

Direct : "Have you brought a bat for me?" the girl said to her father.

Indirect : The girl *asked* her father *if* he had brought a bat for her.

Direct : "Can you see a woman seated at a table?" he asked her.

Indirect : He *asked* her *if* she could see a woman seated at a table.

Direct : "Would you sing for our visitors?" my mother said to my sister.

Indirect : My mother *asked* my sister *if* she would sing for our visitors.



Direct : "Do you suppose you know better than your own father?" jeered his angry mother.

Indirect : His mother angrily asked (enquired) whether he supposed that he knew better than his own father.

Direct : My brother said to me, "Will you not go to the show?"

Indirect : My brother asked me if I would not go to the show.

*Note : An Interrogative sentence beginning with shall takes the form would in the past tense in the Indirect Speech. But should is retained when it implies a matter of duty.

[Interrogative Sentence-এর should Indirect Speech-এ would হয়ে যাব; কিন্তু কর্তব্য বা উচিত্য বোঝালে should অপরিবর্তিত থাকে।]

Direct : I said to him, "Shall I reach the village before dawn?"

Indirect : I asked him if I would reach the village before dawn.

Direct : The girl said, "Shall I go out for shopping?"

Indirect : The girl asked if she would go out for shopping.

But 'shall' will be changed into 'should' in the following sentence.]

Direct : Nikhil said to me, "Shall I wait for you for an hour?"

Indirect : Nikhil asked me if he should wait for me for an hour.



'WH' QUESTIONS

Direct : I said to the man, "Who are you?"

Indirect : I asked the man who he was.

Direct : He said to me, "What are you doing?"

Indirect : He asked me what I was doing.

Direct : "Where do you live?" asked the stranger.

Indirect : The stranger asked (him) where he lived.

Direct : "Why are you weeping?" the Swallow asked the Prince.

Indirect : The Swallow enquired of the Prince why he was weeping.

Direct : "Why doesn't she talk to me any more?" I thought.

Indirect : I thought to myself why she did not talk to me any more.

Direct : "When will you come back?" the Prince said to the Swallow.

Indirect : The Prince asked the Swallow when he would come back.

Direct : "How did you do that?" they asked Edison.

Indirect : They asked Edison how he had done that.

Direct : He said to me, "Which book do you want?"

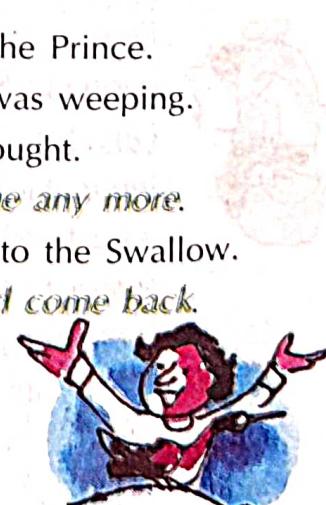
Indirect : He asked me which book I wanted.

Direct : "Who was the first man to fly in space?" the examiner asked the boy.

Indirect : The examiner asked the boy who was the first man to fly in space.

*Note : In the last sentence, the order of words has not been changed as the interrogative word 'who' has been used as the subject of the clause.

লিঙ্গ করো, শেষ বাক্যে order of word পরিবর্তন হয়নি, কারণ who নিজেই Subject হলে who-র পরেই Verb বসে।



QUESTION TAGS

Rules : Statement (Affirmative) → Question Tag (Negative);

Statement (Negative) → Question Tag (Affirmative)

Direct : He said to me, "Ali can speak English well, *can't he?*"

Indirect : He asked me if Ali could speak English well and assumed that *he could*.

Direct : He said to me, "You are going to the playground, *aren't you?*"

Indirect : *He asked me if I was going to the playground and assumed that I was.*

Direct : He said to me, "You didn't cause much damage to the book, *did you?*"

Indirect : He asked me whether I had caused much damage to the book and *assumed that I had not.*

Note : The main force lies in the first statement, not in the Tag Questions. It is used only for checking or confirming.

EXERCISE II

A. Report the following sentences in Indirect Speech :

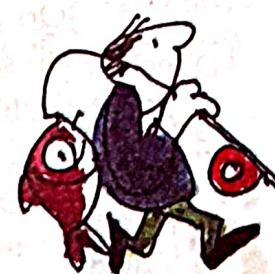
1. The boy said to me, "Will you accompany me?"
2. She said to me, "Shall I post these letters for you?"
3. He said to me, "Have you done your home-task?"
4. "Is it good or bad?" asked Rahim.
5. "Is there anybody there?" said the traveller.
6. "Are you coming with me?" he asked.
7. Hasina said to the man, "Do you know Mr. Das?"
8. The man said to me, "Do you know where he lives?"
9. She said to me, "Did you write to me before?"
10. Lila said to me, "Can you tell me his address?"

B. Report the following sentences in Indirect Speech :

1. "Which animal are you going to kill?" he wanted to know.
2. "What do you think of it?" Edison asked John.
3. "Who are you and what do you want of us?" I said to them.
4. "Where had you been yesterday?" I asked her.
5. Father said to me, "When did you do it?"
6. I said to Ramen, "Whose pen are you using?"
7. Mother said to the boy, "What is your father?"
8. They said to him, "Which fish did you catch?"
9. He said, "How could such a man be a teacher?"
10. I said to him, "Why have you failed?"
11. He said to me, "When will the Down train arrive?"
12. "Who was the first man to land on the moon?" asked the examiner.

C. Change the following sentences into Indirect Speech.

1. I said to him, "You are going home, aren't you?"
2. He said to me, "You didn't do your hometask, did you?"
3. Father said to me, "You have bought a pen from market for me, haven't you?"
4. My friend said to me, "You haven't read the *Pather Panchali*, have you?"
5. Mr. Sen asked, "They didn't perform the job well, did they?"



NARRATION OF IMPERATIVE SENTENCE

[Commands, Requests etc. (আদেশ, অনুরোধসূচক ইত্যাদি)]

Rules of Change :

- (i) The Reporting Verb becomes **order, request, advise, tell, ask** etc. according to the sense. Hence the words '**said to me**', '**said to him**' etc. becomes **ordered me, requested him, advised him** etc.
 [Reporting Verb অর্থ অনুযায়ী **order, request, advise, tell, ask** ইত্যাদি হয়। সেজন্য '**said to me**', '**said to him**' ইত্যাদি '**ordered me**', '**requested him**' ইত্যাদি হয়।]
- (ii) The Imperative mood is changed into the Infinitive. Hence '**to**' is used before the main verb to make it Infinitive.
 [Imperative mood-টি Infinitive mood-এ পরিবর্তন হওয়ার জন্য মূল **verb**-এর আগে **to** বসে।]
- (iii) Negative Imperative may be expressed by using **not** before the Infinitive in the Indirect Speech. The Reporting verb **forbid, prohibit** etc. may also be used without using **not**.
 [Negative Imperative-কে Indirect Speech করতে হলে Infinitive-এর পূর্বে **not** বসাতে হয়, আবার **not** না বসিয়ে **forbid, prohibit** প্রভৃতি Reporting verb-ও বসানো যায়।]
- (iv) Such expressions as **Please, Sir** in the Direct are left out in the Indirect Speech and they are rendered by the Verb **request** or by the Adverbs **kindly, politely** etc.
 [Direct Speech-এর **Please, Sir** ইত্যাদি Indirect Speech-এ তুলে দেওয়া হয় এবং তার অর্থ প্রকাশের জন্য Reporting Verb-টিকে **request**-এ পরিবর্তিত করা হয় অথবা **kindly, politely** ইত্যাদি Adverb যোগ করা হয়।]

Examples :

Direct : The officer shouted to his men, "Halt!"

Indirect : The officer **ordered** his men **to halt**.

Direct : Father said to me, "Go home at once."

Indirect : Father **ordered** me **to go** home at once.

Direct : The teacher said to me, "Don't come here."

Indirect : The teacher **ordered** me **not to go** there.

[Or] The teacher **forbade** me **to go** there.

Direct : He said to me, '**Please** open the door.'

Indirect : He **requested** me **to open** the door.

[Or] He **told** me **politely to open** the door.

Direct : He said to me, "**Please** wait here till I return."

Indirect : He **requested** me **to wait** there till he returned.

Direct : I said to him, '**Please** explain the passage.'

Indirect : I **requested** him **to explain** the passage.

Direct : Mother said to me, "Don't run in the sun."

Indirect : Mother **advised** me **not to run** in the sun.

[Or] Mother **forbade** me to **run** in the sun.



When **order, request, advise** etc. are not clearly expressed, **tell** or **ask** may be used as the Reporting Verb. (যখন **order, request, advise** ইত্যাদি পরিষ্কারভাবে বোঝা যায় না, তখন Reporting Verb হিসাবে **tell** বা **ask** ব্যবহার করা হয়।)

Direct : He **said** to me, "Don't do it again."

Indirect : He **told** (asked) me **not to do** it again.

Direct : "Don't forget to give her the information," he **said** to you.

Indirect : He **told** (reminded) you **not to forget** to give her the information.

Direct : Rina said to him, "**Sir**, Don't go home now."

Indirect : Rina **asked** him **politely not to go** home then.

IMPERATIVE BEGINNING WITH 'LET'

When **Let** in the Direct Speech expresses a proposal or suggestion, we may use **should** for **Let** and change the Reporting Verb into **propose** or **suggest**. Moreover, the Imperative form is changed into Assertive form with the linker **that**.

[যদি Direct Speech-টি **Let** দিয়ে শুরু হয়, এবং এই **Let** দ্বারা যদি কোনো proposal বা suggestion বোঝায়, তাহলে Reporting Verb-টি **propose** বা **suggest** হয়। তাছাড়া Imperative form-টি Assertive form-এ পরিবর্তিত হয় এবং linker হিসাবে **that** বসে।]

Direct : Lila said to her friends, "**Let us** have a picnic."

Indirect : Lila **proposed** (suggested) to her friends **that** they **should** have a picnic.

Direct : He said to his companions, "**Let us** not miss this chance to see the last show."

Indirect : He **proposed** (suggested) to his companions **that** they **should** not miss that chance to see the last show.



But when **Let** does not express a proposal, it should be changed into **might** or **might be allowed to**, or into some other form according to the sense.

[যদি **Let** দ্বারা Proposal বা suggestion না বোঝায়, তাহলে **Let**-কে **might** বা **might be allowed to** বা অনুরূপ form-এ পরিবর্তিত করা হয়।]

Direct : We said, "**Let** him tell the story."

Indirect : We said that he **might** (or **might be allowed to**) tell the story.

Direct : She said, "**Let** him eat whatever he likes."

Indirect : She said that he **might** (or **might be allowed to**) eat whatever he liked.

Direct : He said, "**Let** me come in."

Indirect : He **requested** that he **might be allowed to** come in.

[Or] He **requested to let** him come in. [In Request, '**let**' may be changed into '**to let**']



IMPERATIVES WITH MUST, WOULD AND COULD

The Modal **must** is not normally changed in the Indirect Speech. You should also note that some sentences with **would** and **could** are interrogative in form but Imperative in nature. So '**to**' Infinitive is used in these cases.

[**Must** এই **Modal**-টি Indirect Speech-এ সাধারণত পরিবর্তন হয় না। আরও লক্ষ করো কতকগুলি বাক্য **Could** অথবা **Would** দিয়ে আরম্ভ হয়ে Interrogative form হলেও এগুলি স্বত্বাবত Imperative বাক্য, সেজন্য এসব ক্ষেত্রে '**to**' Infinitive ব্যবহৃত হয়।]

Direct : He said to me, "You **must** leave the place."

Indirect : He told me that I **must** leave the place.

Direct : He said to me, "**Would** you help me to do the sum?"

Indirect : He **requested** me to help him to do the sum.

Direct : I said to her, "Could you give me a cup of tea?"

Indirect : I **requested** her to give me a cup of tea.

EXERCISE III**A. Report the following sentences in Indirect Speech :**

1. The master said to his servant, "Do as I told you."
2. The teacher said to the boys, "Don't make so much noise."
3. Kanika said to me, "Please lend me your pen."
4. He said, "Be quiet and listen to my words."
5. She said to her father, "Kindly excuse me this time."
6. The General said to his soldiers, "March forward!"

B. Change the following Direct Speech into Indirect Speech :

1. I said to the teacher, "Let me come in."
2. He said, "Let us wait for the award."
3. I said, "Let him do what he likes."
4. Father said to his son, "You must do this."
5. The hare said to the tortoise, "Let us run a race."
6. Rekha said to her mother, "Let me look out the window."

**NARRATION OF OPTATIVE SENTENCE****[Wishes, Prayers etc. (ইচ্ছা, প্রার্থনাসূচক ইত্যাদি)]****Rules of Change :**

Optative sentences express wish or prayer. So Reporting Verbs in such sentences are changed into **wish**, **pray**, **desire**, **long for**, **yearn for**, etc. Moreover, the Optative form is changed into Assertive form with the linker **that** in the Indirect Speech.

—Nesfield

[Optative Sentence যেহেতু ইচ্ছা বা প্রার্থনা বোঝায়, সেজন্য Reporting Verb হয় **wish**, **pray** ইত্যাদি। তাছাড়া Indirect Speech-এ Optative form-টি Assertive form-এ পরিবর্তিত হয় এবং Linker হিসাবে **that** বসে।]

Examples :

Direct : I said to him, "May you be happy."

Indirect : I **wished** that he might be happy.

Direct : Mother said to me, "May God bless you."

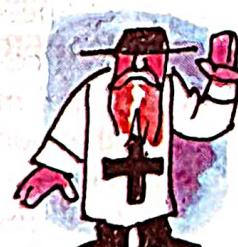
Indirect : Mother **prayed** that God **might** bless me.

Direct : He said, "May his soul rest in peace."

Indirect : He **prayed** that his soul **might** rest in peace.

Direct : The girl said, "Oh, had I the wings of a dove."

Indirect : The girl **wished** that she **could** have the wings of a dove.

**EXERCISE IV****Report the following sentences into Indirect Speech :**

1. I said to him, "May you live long."
2. Nilima said to me, "May you recover soon."

3. Mother said to him, "May God grant you a long life."
4. The holy man said, "May peace prevail."
5. She said, "May your son recover from illness soon."
6. He said, "Oh, If I could bring my departed friend back to life!"

NARRATION OF EXCLAMATORY SENTENCE

[Sudden emotion (আবেগসূচক)]

Rules of Change :

(i) In Exclamatory Sentences, the Reporting Verb is changed into **exclaim in** (with) **grief**, **exclaim in joy**, **exclaim in wonder** etc. according to the sense of **Alas**, **Hurrah** etc. But in some cases, where one is not sure about the nature of exclamation, it is advised to change the Reporting Verb as **cry out** or **exclaim** only. Other forms of Reporting Verbs are **swear**, **shout**, **applaud** etc. in Exclamatory Sentences.

[Exclamatory Sentence-কে Indirect Speech-এ পরিবর্তন করতে হলে **Alas**, **Hurrah** ইত্যাদির অর্থ অনুসারে **exclaim in grief**, **exclaim in joy**, **exclaim in wonder** ইত্যাদি হয়। কিন্তু যেখানে exclamation-এর প্রকৃতি সম্বন্ধে নিশ্চিত হওয়া যায় না, সেখানে Reporting Verb কেবলমাত্র **exclaim** বা **cry out** করাই সমীচীন। Exclamatory Sentence-এর Reporting Verb-এর অন্যান্য form-গুলি হল **swear**, **shout**, **applaud** ইত্যাদি।]

(ii) The Exclamatory Sentence is turned into a statement and Linker **that** is used in the Indirect Speech.

[Indirect Speech-এ Exclamatory Sentence বা আবেগসূচক বাক্যটি Assertive Sentence-এর মতো statement বা বিবৃতিতে পরিণত হয় এবং Linker হিসাবে **that** ব্যবহৃত হয়।]

(iii) If the Exclamatory Sentence begins with **What** or **How** to denote extreme emotion, it becomes **great** or **very** according to sense. Normally **great** is placed **before a Noun** and **very** is placed **before an Adjective**.

[Exclamatory Sentence আবেগের তীব্রতা বোঝাতে **What** বা **How** দিয়ে শুরু হলে তার পরিবর্তে **great** বা **very** বসে। সাধারণত **Noun**-এর পূর্বে **great** এবং **Adjective**-এর পূর্বে **very** বসে।]

(iv) In Indirect Speech, the sentence ends with a full stop (.) and not an exclamation mark (!). It is applicable for all sorts of sentences as all these are Assertive Sentences or statements in Indirect Speech.

[Indirect Speech-এ note of exclamation-এর পরিবর্তে full stop (.) বসে। এই নিয়মটি সকলপ্রকার sentence-এর পক্ষেই প্রযোজ্য, কারণ Indirect Speech-এ সব sentence-ই statement বা বিবৃতি হয়ে যায়।]

Examples :

Direct : The boys said, "**Hurrah!** We have won the match."

Indirect : The boys **exclaimed in (with) joy** that they had won the match.

Direct : He said to me, "**Alas!** I could not save you."

Indirect : He **exclaimed in grief** that he could not save me.

Direct : The boy said, "**What** a fool I am!"

Indirect : He **exclaimed (cried out)** that he was a **great fool**.

Direct : He said, "**What** a nice bird it is!"

Indirect : He **exclaimed in wonder** that it was a **very nice bird**.



Direct : He observed, "How dirty the house is!"

Indirect : He *exclaimed* that the house was *very* dirty.

SOME SPECIAL USES OF EXCLAMATORY SENTENCES

Direct : "Help! Help!" *shouted* the woman.

Indirect : The woman *shouted* for help.

Direct : He said, "Good-bye, my friends!"

Indirect : He *bade* *good-bye* to his friends.

[Or] He *bade* his friends *good-bye*.

Direct : The teacher said, "Thank you, my boys!"

Indirect : The teacher *thanked* the boys.

Direct : He said, "By Jove! What a good news."

Indirect : He swore *by Jove* that it was a very good news.

Direct : She said to me, "Happy Christmas!"

Indirect : She *wished me a Happy Christmas*.

Direct : He said to them, "Bravo! You have done well."

Indirect : He *applauded* them saying that they had done well.

Direct : The old man said to him, "Fie! You are such a coward."

Indirect : The old man expressed his disgust and said that he was a coward.

[Or] : The old man exclaimed that it was *shameful* that he was such a coward.

Direct : He said, "Poor fellow! How changed you are."

Indirect : He *pitied the man* and *exclaimed* that he was greatly changed.

Direct : "So help me Heaven!" he cried, "I'll never do so again."

Indirect : He *prayed to Heaven* to help him and *resolved* not to do so (in that way) again.

Direct : He said, "Who knew that this would happen!"

Indirect : He said that *none* knew that (that) would happen.

Direct : He said, "Good Gracious! What a huge snake." [ওরেব বাপ! কত বড় সাপ!]

Indirect : He *exclaimed with wonder* that it was a huge

snake.

Direct : "Good Heavens! We have reached the peak." said the boys.

Indirect : The boys *exclaimed with delight* that they had reached the peak.

EXERCISE V

Report the following sentences in Indirect Speech :

1. He said, "Alas! The war killed all my family."
2. He says, "Hurrah! My friend has come."
3. The teacher said to the boy, "Fie! You are a liar."
4. They cried out, "Bravo! It is a capital hit."
5. The girl said, "Ah! I am happy now."

6. The leader said to his men, "Good-bye, Comrades!"
7. "How selfish I have been!" he said.
8. The girl remarked, "What a fine picture it is!"
9. The teacher remarked, "What a stupid fellow you are!"
10. Tom said to John, "How clever you are!"
11. "By God! What an interesting piece of painting." they said.
12. "So help me Heaven!" he cried, "I will never steal again."

NARRATION OF VOCATIVES (সম্মোধন)

It is important to note that conversion of Vocatives into "**Addressing as**" is now treated as '**Hackneyed English**.' It should be avoided thus :

Direct : He said to the officer, "**Yes, sir**, I shall do this."

Indirect : He told the officer **politely** that he would do that.

[If we write, **Addressing the officer as sir**, he told him that he would do that—it would be bad English.]

'**Addressing as**' should be used only when there is no other way to express vocatives.

[Vocative-কে যেখানে **Addressing as** দ্বারা প্রকাশ করা ছাড়া অন্য কোনো বিকল্প পাওয়া যায় না, কেবল সেখানে **Addressing as** ব্যবহার করা হয়।]

Vocatives may be omitted as in the above example, or may be dealt with as below. [সম্মোধনকে বাদ দেওয়া যায় অথবা অন্যভাবে পরিবর্তন করা চলে।]

Examples :

Now study the conversion of the following Vocatives :

Direct : Father said, "Sunil, go to school."

Indirect : Father **asked Sunil** to go to school.

Direct : The teacher said, "Keep quiet, my boy!"

Indirect : The teacher **asked the boy** to keep quiet.

Direct : The teacher said, "Keep quiet, my dear boys!"

Indirect : The teacher **affectionately asked the boys** to keep quiet.

Direct : Bibhas cried, 'My friend, I always thought of you.'

Indirect : Bibhas **told his friend** that he always thought of him.

Direct : "Jim, darling", cried Della. "Don't look at me that way."

Indirect : **Addressing (Calling) Jim as her darling**, Della implored him not to look at her that way.

REPORTING MIXED SENTENCES

Rules of Change :

- When the sentences of the same kind occur consecutively in the Direct Speech, the Reporting Verb becomes common and so it is to be used only once in the Indirect Speech. In such cases, the sentences are joined by the Linker '**and**'.

[যখন Direct Speech-এ এক রকমের বাক্য পরপর থাকে, তখন Reporting Verb একবার মাত্র ব্যবহৃত হয় এবং বাক্যগুলি **and** দ্বারা যুক্ত হয়।]

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- (ii) When the sentences of different kinds are joined, different Reporting Verbs have to be used in the Indirect Speech.

[যখন Indirect Speech-এ ভিন্ন ভিন্ন ধরনের বাক্য যোগ করতে হয়, তখন ভিন্ন ভিন্ন Reporting Verb ব্যবহৃত হয়।]

- (iii) A useful connective device is to use *Then, added that, further said that or also said that*. [ভিন্ন ভিন্ন বাক্য যোগ করার একটি প্রয়োজনীয় কৌশল হল *Then, added that, further said that* বা *also said that* ব্যবহার করা।]

Examples :

Direct : I said to him, "Who are you? What do you want?"

Indirect : I **asked** him who he was and what he wanted.

Direct : Shila said to me, "I have left my camera at home. Can you give me one to shoot with?"

Indirect : Shila **told** me that she had left her camera at home and **asked** me if I could give her one to shoot with.

Direct : Mr. Sen said to his friend, "What time is it? My watch has stopped."

Indirect : Mr. Sen **asked** his friend what time it was and **added that** (*further said that/also said that*) his watch had stopped.

Direct : Biman said, "Why are you still waiting here, Bipin? Go away now."

Indirect : Biman **asked** Bipin why he was still waiting there. **Then** he **ordered** (**advised**) him to go away.



APPLIED SECTION

(For Questions and Answers—'Yes' and 'No')

In changing '**Yes**' or '**No**' into Indirect Speech we should repeat the **verb of the question** or the common verb '**do**' or the sense of the verb.

The ugly forms '**replied in the affirmative**' and '**replied in the negative**' are avoided nowadays.

[**Yes** বা **No**-কে Indirect Speech-এ আনতে হলে Direct Speech-এ যে Verb উহু আছে, তাকে আনতে হয় অথবা ওই Verb-এর পরিবর্তে '**do**' Verb আনতে হয়। এরপ ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমানে '**replied in the affirmative**' এবং '**replied in the negative**' এরকম বিশ্রী form এড়িয়ে যাওয়া হয়।]

The teacher said to the boy, "Are you ill?"

The boy replied, "No".

= The teacher **asked** the boy if he was ill, and the boy **replied that he was not**.

The host said to her, "Have all the guests arrived?"

She replied, "Yes".

= The host **asked** her if all the guests had arrived and she **replied that they had**.

Someone asked her, "Will you take some more chapatis?"

She said, "No". [= She **refused to take** any more chapatis.]

Some one asked him, "Did you break the glass?"

He said, "No, I didn't". [= He **denied that he had broken it**.]

[Or] He **denied having done** it.

Nikhil : 'Could you accompany me?'

Rakesh : 'No, I can't'. [= Rakesh told Nikhil that he **could not do** that.]



REPORTING DIALOGUES/MESSAGES

Normally, in real-life situations, we do not report every word of the sentence. Many irrelevant points are intentionally omitted while reporting. Hence conversations and talks are reported in a summary form. Hackneyed expressions like "*Addressing him (his friend) by the name of Suren*" or "*replied in the negative*", "*replied in the affirmative*" etc. should be avoided.

Stress should be laid on reflecting the true mood of the dialogue or the message.

[সাধারণত বাস্তব পরিস্থিতিতে আমরা বাক্যের প্রতিটি শব্দকে report করি না। অনেক অপ্রাসঙ্গিক কথা বাদ দিতে হয়। সেজন্য অনেক সময় কথোপকথনকে সংক্ষিপ্ত আকারে report করতে হয়। "*Addressing him (his friend) by the name of Suren*", "*replied in the negative*", "*replied in the affirmative*" ইত্যাদি report করার ভালো রীতি নয়।]

Dialogue (সংলাপ) বা Message (সংবাদ)-এর প্রকৃত অর্থটি প্রকাশ করার উপর জোর দিতে হয়।

A dialogue can be reported in three ways :

(i) by the Speaker, (ii) by the Listener, (iii) by a Third Person.

[Dialogue বা সংলাপ তিনভাবে report করা যায়—বক্তার দ্বারা, শ্রোতার দ্বারা বা তৃতীয় কোনো ব্যক্তির দ্বারা।]

Study the following examples :

Example 1

Bikash : Hello, Subhash, where are you going?

Subhas : I'm going to the playground to watch a basket-ball match.

Why don't you accompany me?

Bikash : I can't. I'm going to the station to receive my sister who is coming from Delhi by the Rajdhani Express.

Subhas : Then you must hurry up. I'll see you at your house this evening.

(i) Now imagine you are Bikash and report the above dialogue :

(মনে করো তুমি বিকাশ এবং উপরের dialogue-টি report করো।)

I greeted Subhas (not, addressed Subhas by saying Hello) and asked him where he was going. Subhas replied that he was going to the playground to watch a basket-ball match and requested me to accompany him (not, asked me why I did not accompany him). I told him that I could not do that because I was going to the station to receive my sister who was coming from Delhi by the Rajdhani Express. Subhas asked me to hurry up and told me that he would see me at my house that evening.

(ii) Now imagine you are Subhas and report the above dialogue :

(মনে করো তুমি সুভাষ এবং উপরের dialogue-টি report করো।)

Bikash asked me where I was going and I replied that I was going to the playground to watch a basket-ball match. I requested him to accompany me. Bikash told me that he could not do that because he was going to the station to receive his sister who was coming from Delhi by the Rajdhani Express. Then I asked him to hurry up and told him that I would see him at his house that evening.

(iii) Now report the above dialogue as a third person :

(মনে করো তুমি তৃতীয় কোনো ব্যক্তি এবং উপরের dialogue-টি report করো।)

Bikash greeted Subhas and asked him (Subhas) where he was going. Subhas replied that he was going to the playground to watch a basket-ball match. He



also **requested Bikash** to accompany **him**. **Bikash told him** that he could not do that because **he** was going to the station to receive his sister who was coming from Delhi by the Rajdhani Express. Then **Subhas asked him** to hurry up and **told him** that **he** (Subhas) **would see** him at **his** house that evening.



Note : In the three forms of the reporting, Pronouns should be carefully changed. Other rules are the same.

[লক্ষ করো, Reporting-এর এই তিনরকম form-এ Pronoun-গুলিকে সতর্কভাবে পরিবর্তন করতে হয়। বাকি নিয়ম সবই একপ্রকার।]

Example 2

Read the following conversation between a teacher and a student :

Teacher : Why were you absent? The Headmaster is angry with you. Go to him and see him at once.

Student : I'm sorry, Sir. Now I'll go and pray to him to excuse me for the first time.

(i) **The student reports :**

The teacher asked me why I had been absent. He then informed me that the Headmaster was angry with me. So he advised me to go and see the Headmaster at once. However I apologised and told the teacher that I would go to the Headmaster and pray to him to excuse me for the first time.

(ii) **Report it as a third person :**

The teacher asked the student why he had been absent. He (the teacher) then informed him that the Headmaster was angry with him (the student). So he advised him to go and see the Headmaster at once. The student apologised and said that he would go to the Headmaster and pray to him to excuse him for the first time.

Example 3

Mala received a message from a messenger for her brother Dipu. The following was the conversation between them : (M.P. 1990)

Messenger : Hello! Is Dipu at home?

Mala : No, he's not. I'm his sister Mala.

Messenger : Could you tell him I've bought two tickets for 'Pather Panchali'? I'll be at the main gate of Nandan today at 1 p.m. sharp.



Mala : All right.

Messenger : Thank you, good-bye.

Imagine you are Mala. You have to go out; so write a message for Dipu. You can do it in about 40 words.

[**Note :** he's = he is; I'm = I am; I'll = I will; I've = I have.]

Ans.

Dear Dipu,

Someone (possibly your friend) came to see you at our home. He told me that he had bought two tickets for 'Pather Panchali' and he would be at the main gate of Nandan today at 1 p.m. sharp.

Mala

Example 4

Read the following conversation :

Prabir : Where are you going now?

Subir : To Durgapur.

Prabir : Why are you going there?

Subir : To meet the M.D. of the Steel Plant. He is my uncle.

Prabir : Where does he reside?

Subir : He resides in the officer's quarters of the Steel Plant.



(i) **Now study how the conversation can be reported in detail by another person after a few days.**

Prabir asked Subir where he was going then. Subir replied that he was going to Durgapur. Prabir then asked him why he was going there. Subir replied that he was going there to meet his uncle who is the M.D. of the steel plant. Prabir further asked him where his uncle used to reside there. In reply Subir told him that his uncle resides (resided) in the officer's quarters of the Steel Plant.

Note. If Subir's uncle still resides in the officer's quarters of the Steel Plant, the verb form will be in the Present Tense, not in the Past Tense.

(ii) **Now study how the conversation can be reported in a summary form :**

In reply to Prabir's queries Subir informed him that he was going to Durgapur to meet his uncle who was (is) the M.D. of the Steel Plant.

Example 5

Report the following.

The traveller said, "Can you tell me the way to the nearest inn?"

"Yes," said the peasant, "do you want one in which you can spend the night?"

"No", replied the traveller, "I only want a meal."

Reported Speech :

The traveller asked the peasant if he could tell him the way to the nearest inn. The peasant replied that he could, and asked whether the traveller wanted one in which he could spend the night. The traveller answered that he did not wish to stay there, but only wanted a meal.

***Note.** It will be noticed that we have avoided the ugly phrases '*replied in the affirmative*' and '*replied in the negative*' by using '*could*' and '*he did not wish to stay there*'.

Example 6

Report the following :

"Who hath dared to wound thee?" cried the Giant; "Tell me that I may take my big sword and slay him."

"Nay!" answered the child : "but these are the wounds of Love."

"Who art thou?" said the Giant and a strange awe fell on

him and he knelt before the little child.



Reported Speech :

The Giant angrily asked the child who had dared to wound him and requested him (the child) to tell him so that he might take his big sword and slay him. The child answered that no one had wounded him, but those were the wounds of love. The Giant wanted to know who he (the child) was as a strange awe fell on him, and he knelt before the little child.

Example 7**Report the following :**

'I am waited for in Egypt', said the Swallow. 'My friends are flying up and down the Nile, and talking to the large lotus-flowers. Soon they will go to sleep in the tomb of the great King.'

'Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow', said the Prince, 'will you not stay with me for one night, and be my messenger? The boy is so thirsty, and the mother so sad.'

Reported Speech :

The Swallow said that he was waited for in Egypt and added that his friends were flying up and down the Nile, and talking to the large lotus-flowers, and soon they would go to sleep in the tomb of the great King. The Prince earnestly *requested* (not, *asked*) the Swallow to stay with him for one night and be his messenger, and added that the boy was *very* (not, *so*) thirsty, and the mother *very* (not, *so*) sad.

**Example 8****Report the following :**

Bishop : My dear, there's so much suffering in the world, and I can do so little, so very little.

Persome : Suffering, yes, but you never think of the suffering you cause to those who love you best, the suffering you cause to me.

Bishop : You, sister dear? Have I hurt you?

Reported Speech :

The Bishop told Persome *affectionately* that there was so much suffering in the world, and he could do so little. Persome admitted that there was suffering, but he never thought of the suffering he caused to those who loved him best, the suffering he caused to her. The Bishop was *surprised* at his sister's words and asked her if he had hurt her.

**Example 9****Report the following :**

Davy : You have a trade, at present, Mr. Faraday?

Faraday : Yes Sir, I am a book-binder.

Davy : And you desire to change?

Faraday : Yes Sir, I am anxious to do so.

Davy : Why?

Reported Speech :

Davy asked Faraday if he had a trade. Faraday *replied* that he was a book-binder. Then Davy asked him whether he desired to change his trade. Faraday *told* him *politely* that he was anxious to do so. Davy *wanted* to know the reason.

Example 10**Report the following :**

Sergeant : Stop. Didn't I tell you to stop? You cannot go there.

Man : Oh! Very well, it is a hard thing to be very poor. All the world is *against* the poor.

Reported Speech :

The Sergeant *ordered* the man to stop and *reminded* him that he had already asked him to stop. He (the Sergeant) *warned* him that he could not go there. The man *reluctantly admitted it* and *said (commented)* that it was a hard thing to be very poor and that all the world was against the poor.

Example 11**Report the following :**

Sergeant : You know him? Come back here. What sort of man is he?

Man : Come back, is it, Sergeant? Do you want me killed?

Sergeant : Why do you say that?

Reported Speech :

The Sergeant *asked* the man *if* he knew him. He *further ordered* him *to go back there* and *asked* him what sort of man he was. The man *ironically asked* the Sergeant *if* he (Sergeant) wanted him *go back to get killed*. The Sergeant *wanted to know the reason* of saying that.

Example 12**Report the following :**

Man : Can you cure a headache?

Chemist : (Thrusting a bottle under the man's nose) I am
sure your headache is gone now.

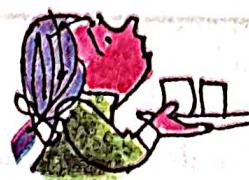
Man : You fool! It is my wife that has got the headache, not me.

**Reported Speech :**

The man *asked* the chemist *if* he could *cure* a headache. Thrusting a bottle under the man's nose the chemist *said that* he was sure that his headache was gone (then). Then the man *angrily called* the chemist a fool and *said that* it was his wife who had got a headache, and not he.

Example 13**Report the following :**

Hannah : Mrs. Meldon wants to know whether you'll come
downstairs to tea or have it up here?



Corrie : Has she got back?

Hannah : Yes, Sir. She expected you to meet her at the station, Sir. She waited
a long time in the cold, and then got Marshall to drive her up.

Reported Speech :

Hannah *informed* Mr. Corrie that Mrs. Meldon wanted to know whether he would go downstairs to tea or have it up there. Corrie *wanted to know* whether she had got back. Hannah *politely replied* that she had. She (Hannah) further *informed* him that she (Mrs. Meldon) had expected him to meet her at the station, that she had waited a long time in the cold, and then got Marshall to drive her up.

[Note : Hanna is a feminine character.]

Example 14**Report the following :**

Mrs. Meldon : It's all in your head?

Corrie : Yes, Yes. Don't keep on repeating yourself, but come and help
to clear the mess you've made.

Mrs. Meldon : Henry, won't you do what I ask you?

Reported Speech :

Mrs. Meldon asked Corrie if it was all in his head. Corrie *replied irritably* and asked her not to keep on repeating herself, but to go and help to clear the mess she had made. Then Mrs. Meldon *wanted to know* from Henry if he would not do what she had asked him.

Example 15**Report the following :**

Mrs. Meldon : Henry, I beg you to destroy your invention.

Corrie : You what?

Mrs. Meldon : I beg you to destroy it. Let that be your memorial to Eddie!

Corrie : My dear Charlotte, I begin to believe that grief has unhinged your mind. Destroy my invention!

Mrs. Meldon : Your bomb will destroy life, Henry. I beg you to destroy it.

Corrie : Rubbish, woman, rubbish.

**Reported Speech :**

Mrs. Meldon *called Corrie by his Christian name, Henry*, and *begged him to destroy his invention*. Corrie *wanted to be sure of what she begged*. Mrs. Meldon *repeated* that she begged him to destroy the invention and let that be his memorial to Eddie. Corrie addressed Mrs. Meldon by her Christian name, Charlotte, and *said that* he began to believe that grief had unhinged her mind. It was *unbelievable to him that* he should destroy his invention. Mrs. Meldon *reminded* Corrie that his bomb would destroy life. So she *begged of him* to destroy it. *Being irritated* by the suggestion, Corrie *addressed* Mrs. Meldon as 'woman' and repeatedly called her suggestion 'rubbish'.

[**Note :** Here 'addressed' should not be avoided, as Henry and Charlotte denote Christian names of Corrie and Mrs. Meldon, respectively.]

EXERCISE VI**[A] REPORT THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUES :**

1. Corrie : I'm sorry, Charlotte, I ought not to have talked about the war to you—especially today.

Mrs. Meldon : I don't mind, Henry. And after all, the War Office is not the war.

Imagine that you are

(i) Corrie (ii) Mrs. Meldon (iii) a third person.

2. Corrie : What the hell are you doing?

Mrs. Meldon : I'm destroying your foul invention.

Corrie : (Laughing harshly) That won't destroy it. I've got it in my head. All that you've done, Charlotte, is to make a mess on my floor.

3. 'Mr. Faraday?' Davy put his hand out.

'Yes, Sir Humphry', said Michael, jumping to his feet.

'Let's sit down here and talk the matter over', began Davy.

4. Father : How do you feel, Schatz?

Schatz : Just the same, so far.

Father : Why don't you try to sleep?

I'll wake you up for the medicine.



5. Schatz : About how long will it be before I die?

Father : You aren't going to die. What's the matter with you?

Schatz : Oh, yes, I am. I heard him say a hundred and two.



Father : People don't die with a fever of one hundred and two. That's a silly way to talk.

6. Gandhi : You don't like vegetables?

Fischer : I don't like the taste of these vegetables three days running.

Gandhi : Ah, you must add plenty of salt and lemon.

Fischer : You want me to kill the taste?

Gandhi : (Laughing) No, enrich the taste.

Fischer : (Jokingly) You're so non-violent you wouldn't even kill a taste!

7. Corrie : Oh, my dear Charlotte, I'm sorry, I did not meet you at the station.

Mrs. Meldon : It doesn't matter, Henry. Only I thought you were coming—you said you would—and I waited a long time in the cold.

8. Hannah : Mrs. Meldon is not very happy today, sir.

Corrie : Not happy! Why? I'm happy, aren't I?

Hannah : Well, you see, sir, it's three years ago today since her son was killed in the war!

9. Corrie : I'm going to make war horrible, really horrible!

Mrs. Meldon : Yes.

Corrie : I've got something here, Charlotte, the formula for a bomb that will make war not only stupendously horrible, but will end it almost as quickly as it began.

Mrs. Meldon : On that table?

Corrie : Yes.

10. Passenger : Four tickets to Panaji, please.

Booking clerk : What Class?

Passenger : Second Class.

Booking clerk : Won't you like to have First Class tickets for the sea part of the journey from Nagar Haveli?

Passenger : What would be the difference in price between the two classes per ticket?

Booking clerk : Some twenty-five rupees. Not much. But it will make your journey extremely enjoyable.

11. Son : Shall we take a taxi or a bus to go to the exhibition?

Father : It would be better we take a bus. It's really difficult getting a taxi at this rush hour. (hour = time)

Son : Shall we go to the next bus stop? That is the terminus. There we would get vacant seats.

Father : Yes, Yes: that's a good idea.

12. Mr. Holmes : Good morning, madam! My name is Sherlock Holmes (Pointing out to Watson) This is my friend, Dr. Watson, before whom you can speak freely. But first I shall order you a cup of hot coffee, for I see that you are shivering.

Lady : (in a low voice) It is not cold which makes me shiver.

Mr. Holmes : What is it then?

Lady : It is fear. It is terror.

[B] WRITE SOME DIALOGUES IN REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS AND REPORT THE SAME TO A THIRD PERSON.

1. In a crowded bus you accidentally step on somebody's foot. Apologise.

You :

Somebody :

2. At a railway station you want to have a cup of tea but you have only a fifty-rupee note. What do you ask somebody there?

You :

Somebody :

3. Your neighbour's radio is very loud and you feel disturbed. You have knocked at his door. What do you say?

You :

Neighbour :

4. You meet a stranger in your town. He wants to go to the post office. He wants you to give him the direction.

The stranger :

You :

5. An old friend of yours has come to your town, and you meet him on the road. Invite him to come and spend the weekend with you.

You :

Your friend :

[C] THIS IS A TELEPHONE MESSAGE THAT A P.A. (PERSONAL ASSISTANT) RECEIVED FOR MR. SEN, HIS BOSS. HOW WOULD HE REPORT IT TO HIS BOSS?

P.A. : Hello!

Mr. Roy : Good afternoon. Mr. Roy speaking. Could I speak to Mr. Sen?

P.A. : I'm afraid, he has not yet returned from Mumbai. Possibly he'll be here tonight.

Mr. Roy : I telephoned at his home this morning, but couldn't get him. Would you give him a message from me, please? It's about our meeting on Friday. I have been suddenly called from the Head-office. It's better to postpone our meeting until next week.

P.A. : Yes, Sir, I'll give him the message.

Mr. Roy : Thank you, Good-bye.

P.A. : Good-bye (or, simply, Bye)

Note that the first three lines do not come into the report. Begin like this :

Sir,

Mr. Roy rang up to speak to you. He telephoned at your home too, but couldn't get you. He informed that

.....
.....

(Signature)

P.A.