

# **CHANGE OF NARRATION**

In the English Language there are two principal ways of conveying a message directly and indirectly. Grammatically this is done through narration which falls under two categories

- **Quoted or Direct speech**
- **Reported or Indirect speech**

**In direct speech** the actual words of person are narrated (no change is made) and are enclosed in inverted commas. While in indirect speech some changes are made in actual words of the person. Since the original words have been spoken in the past, the tense undergoes change according to the rules of narration.

### **In the Direct speech:**

- The reported speech is put within Reported (Inverted)commas
- The reported speech and the reporting verb are separated by a comma.
- In the reported speech we may use the tense required by the sense of the sentence.

### **In the Indirect speech:**

- Inverted commas are removed
- The comma separating the reporting verb from the reported speech is removed
- Reported speech is introduced by a conjunction like- that, if, what, why etc.

**.In the Indirect speech:**

- Reporting verb changes according to the sense. The tense of the reporting verb is never changed.
- All kinds of sentences change into assertive ones.
- The mark of interrogation (?) and the mark of exclamation (!) at the end of the sentences are changed into full stops.

## Present or the Future tense

- If the reporting verb is in the present or the future tense, the tense of the verb in the reported speech does not change. For example,
- **Direct speech**: Sameer says , “ My father has brought a fair name to his family.”
- **Indirect speech**: sameer says that his father has brought a fair name to his family.

## Universal truth or Habitual fact

- If there is a universal truth or habitual fact, in the reported speech, the tense of the verb is never changed. For example,
- **Direct speech:** The philosopher said, “Death comes sooner or later.”
- **Indirect speech:** The philosopher said that death comes sooner or later.



## Historical fact

- If the reported speech is a historical fact, the tense of the verb in the reported speech does not change. For example,
- **Direct speech:** The teacher said, “Akbar defeated Hemu in the second battle of Panipat.”
- **Indirect speech:** the teacher said that Akbar defeated Hemu in the second battle of Panipat.

## Mind the tense

- If the reporting verb is in the past tense, the tense of the verb in the reported speech must be changed in to the corresponding past tense. For example,
- **Direct speech:** the teacher said, “Boys fail because they do not study regularly.”
- **Indirect speech:** the teacher said that the boys failed because they did not study regularly.

## YES or No Question types

- If or whether is used to introduce reported speech if the question is in yes or no and begins with a helping verb. For example,
- **Direct speech**: Ram said, "Shall I ever forsake Sita?"  
    **Indirect speech**: Ram wondered if he would ever forsake Sita

## **Pronouns of the first person**

- Pronouns of the first person (I, my, me, we, our, us) in the reported speech are changed into the persons of the subjects (noun or pronoun) of the reporting verb. For example,
- **Direct speech:** She said to me, “Shashi insulted my brother in my presence.”
- **Indirect speech:** She told me that Shashi had insulted her brother in her presence.

## **Pronouns of the second person**

- Pronouns of the second person, (you, your, you) existing in the reported speech are changed into the persons of the object (noun or pronoun) of the reporting verb. For example,
- **Direct speech:** We said to them, “You cannot get the posts you aspire for”
- **Indirect speech:** “We told them that they could not get the posts they aspired for.

## Pronouns of the third person

- Pronouns of the third person in the reported speech do not undergo any change. For example,
- **Direct speech:** You said to me, “They will carry the day even against heavy odds.”
- **Indirect speech:** You said to me that they would carry the day even against heavy odds.

### words of nearness

- Words showing nearness (this, here, now) in direct speech do not undergo any change when they refer to the objects present at the time of reporting, or to the place or time at which the speech is reported. For example,
- **Direct speech:** He says, “I shall settle the accounts just now. “
- **Indirect speech:** He says that he will settle the accounts just now.

## Imperative sentences

An imperative sentence may begin with a verb and it does not contain a subject. While converting an imperative sentence, the reporting verb changes according to the sense. The imperative word is changed into an infinitive one by putting 'to' before the verb. In case of a negative imperative, drop the auxiliary 'do' and place 'to' after 'not'

- **Request:** request, beg, entreat, ask, appeal etc.
- **Advice:** advise, forbid, urge, exhort etc.
- **Order :** order, command etc.



- **Imperative sentences**

- **Direct Speech:** The captain said to the troops, "Pick up the guns and fire at the enemy"

- **Indirect Speech:** The captain ordered his troops to pick up the guns and fire at the enemy.

## Do it yourself

Change the following direct speech into indirect speech.

1. The police said , "I'm going to turn right at the traffic lights."
2. Sahil said, "I've returned the dictionary to the library".
3. The scientist said, "I'll send you the results as soon as they arrive."
4. The receptionist said, "Are you looking for something special?"
- 5.. "Don't talk in the class" said the teacher to the boys.

## **Do it yourself**

### **Change the following indirect speech into direct speech.**

1. He said that the father was playing cards while the son was enjoying sound sleep.
2. The maidservant said that she was going on leave for a month.
3. Suresh advised me to avoid moving in the company of bad boys.
4. Mother told Geeta not to tamper with her sewing machine.
5. Pinki regretted with sorrow that she had failed again.