

*In this chapter
you will learn
usage and
transformation
of direct and
indirect speech.*

REPORTED SPEECH

Direct Speech

When we convey the words of a person in his actual words, this is called Direct Speech. We use inverted commas to mark off the exact words of the speaker.

e.g. He said "I am going to the cinema".

Indirect Speech

When we convey the words of a person without using his exact words, this is called Indirect Speech.

e.g. He said that he was going to the cinema.

Reporting Verb

It is the verb of the sentence which is outside inverted commas.

Reported Speech

It is the matter quoted within inverted commas. When Direct Speech is transformed into Indirect Speech, following changes are made:

1. Reporting verb
2. Inverted commas
3. Tense
4. Pronouns in the Reported Speech
5. Adverbs of Time and Place

1. Change of Reporting Verb

- A. In **Assertive** sentences the reporting verb is changed into **tell** or **told**.
- B. In **Interrogative** sentences the reporting verb is changed into **asked** or **inquired of**.
- C. In **Imperative** sentences the reporting verb is changed into **ordered, advised, requested, proposed, forbade, suggested** etc according to the sense of the sentence.
- D. In **Exclamatory** sentences, the reporting verb is changed into **exclaimed with joy, exclaimed with sorrow, exclaimed with surprise** etc according to the sense of the sentence.
- E. In **Optative** sentences, (prayers and wishes) the Reporting Verb is changed into **wished** or **prayed**.

2. Removal of Inverted Commas

- A. In **Assertive** sentences, **that** is used in place of inverted commas.
- B. **Interrogative** sentences
 - (a) Sentences which start **Auxiliary verbs** (do, did, is, are, was, were, can, may etc), **if** or **whether** is used in place of inverted commas.
 - (b) Sentences start with **question words** (who, why, what, where, etc), inverted commas are replaced by question word itself.
- C. In **Imperative** sentences **to** or **not to** is used in place of inverted commas.
- D. In **Exclamatory** sentences **that** is used in place of inverted commas.
- E. In **Optative** sentences, **that** is used in place of inverted commas.

4. Change of Tense

- A. If the **Reporting verb** is in **Present** or **Future tense**, the tense of Reported speech does not change.
 - e.g. 1. He says to me, "I know you."
He tells me that he knows me.
 2. She will say to me, "I need your help."
She will tell me that she needs my help.
- B. If the **Reporting verb** is in the **Past tense**, the tense of Reported speech changes as :

Direct	Indirect
Simple Present	Simple Past
Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Present Perfect	Past Perfect
Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
Simple Past	Past Perfect
Past Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
Past Perfect	No change
Past Perfect Continuous	No change

Note :

Shall is changed into **should**.

Will is changed into **would**.

May is changed into **might**.

Can is changed into **could**.

- e.g. (i) He said to me, "I don't believe you."
He told me that he didn't believe me.
- (ii) They said to him, "We are going to play."
They told him that they were going to play.
- (iii) He said to the teacher, "I have done my homework."
He told the teacher that he had done his home work.
- (iv) They said to me, "She has been living here for five years."
They told me that she had been living there for five years.
- (v) He said, "I wrote a letter."
He said that he had written a letter.
- (vi) We said to her, "We were going to you."
We told her that we had been going to her.
- (vii) He said, "I shall meet her."
He said that he would meet her.
- (viii) The teacher said to me, "You will do it."
The teacher told me that I would do it.
- (ix) We said to them, "We can defeat you."
We told them that we could defeat them.
- (x) He said, "She may write."
He said that she might write.
- C. If the Reported speech is a **universal truth, habitual fact** or **historical fact**, the tense of Reported speech does not change.

- # Answers

[illegible]