OB

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 the 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 change are made:

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

In this chapter you will learn usage and transformation of direct and indirect speech. 34 ENGLISH

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	Past Perfect Continuous
Continuous	
Simple Past	Past Perfect
Past Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
Past Perfect	No change
Past Perfect	No change
Continuous	

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.

e.g.

- (i) My father said to me, "Work is worship." My father told me that work is worship.
- (ii) The teacher said, "India got freedom in 1947."

The teacher said that India got freedom in 1947.

3. Change of Pronoun

- **A.** First person of the Reported speech changes according to the subject of the Reporting verb.
- **B.** Second person of the Reported speech changes according to the object of the Reporting verb.
- **C.** Third person does not change.

Remember it as

1 2 3 S O N

 $1 \rightarrow First person$ $S \rightarrow Subject$

 $2 \rightarrow$ Second person $O \rightarrow$ Object

 $3 \rightarrow$ Third person $N \rightarrow$ No change

e.g.

- (i) I said to Ram, "You can meet her."

 I told Ram that he could meet her.
- (ii) Rashmi said to me, "He is my friend." Rashmi told me that he was her friend.
- 5. Change of Adverbs of Time and Place

Words expressing nearness in time or place are generally changed into words expressing distance.

now	becomes	then
here	becomes	there
ago	becomes	before
thus	becomes	so
this	becomes	that
these	becomes	those
today	becomes	that day
tomorrow	becomes	the next day
yesterday	becomes	the previous day
last night	becomes	the night before
next week	becomes	the following week

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Directions (Q. Nos 1-5) Select the correct indirect speech of the following sentences.

- **1.** John said, "I love this city".
 - (a) John said that I love this city
 - (b) John said that he loved that city
 - (c) John said if I love that city
 - (d) John told that he loved this city
- **2.** She says to Anita, "We have to go home".
 - (a) She told Anita that we have to go home
 - (b) She tells Anita that we have to go home
 - (c) She tells Anita that they have to go home
 - (d) She asked Anita if they have to go home
- **3.** I said to you "Will you have a book"?
 - (a) I asked you if you would have a book
 - (b) I told you if you would have a book
 - (c) I ask you if I would have a book
 - (d) I asked you that you will have a book

- **4.** She said to me, "What are you writing"?
 - (a) She asked me if she was writing
 - (b) She ask me that what I was writing
 - (c) She told me what she was writing
 - (d) She asked me what I was writing
- **5.** I said to him, "Ravi should obey his teacher".
 - (a) I tell him that Ravi should obey his teacher
 - (b) I told him that Ravi should obey his teacher
 - (c) I ask him that he should obey his teacher
 - (d) I tell him if Ravi should obey my teacher

Directions (Q.Nos 6-15) Choose the correct option from the given set of options according to the rules of reported speech.

- **6.** I asked Prerna she travelled to office.
 - (a) what
- (b) how
- (c) where
- (d) who

7.	Sita said that she (a) has been (c) have	already cooked. (b) had been (d) had	11.	Varun asks Tarun wh (a) yesterday (c) tomorrow	ere he went (b) today (d) the previous day				
8.	A crazy man asked m way to paradise. (a) know	ne whether I the	12.	She asked there (a) how (c) if	was anything special (b) can (d) where				
9.	(b) knew(c) knows(d) knowing9. Leela asked her friends at time she			S. Gupta exclaimed with that he cousense a fire in the adjacent building. (a) joy (b) sorrow (c) pain (d) fear					
	would come back. (a) what (c) when	(b) where (d) how		lost the game. (a) had (b) have					
10.	The man asked mech he would fixe (a) has (c) have	*		(c) has She told me she (a) if (c) whether	(d) had been the had been to London. (b) that (d) when				

Answers

1	(b)	2	(c)	3	(a)	4	(d)	5	(b)	6	(b)	7	(d)	8	(b)	9	(a)	10	(c)
11	(d)	12	(c)	13	(d)	14	(a)	15	(b)										