

# Direct and Indirect Speech

## Direct Speech

- In direct speech, the information is given in speaker's own words.
- e.g. (i) He said, "I will not help the boy."

## Indirect Speech

- In Indirect speech, the information is communicated through third person with some modification.
- e.g. He said that he would not help the boy.

*Some important terms related to indirect speech*

1. **Reporting Speech** The part that is outside the inverted commas is called 'reporting speech'.

e.g. He says to me, "You are my friend."



Reporting speech

2. **Reported Speech** The part that is inside the inverted commas is called 'reported speech'.

e.g. He says to me, "**You are my friend.**"



Reported Speech

3. **Reporting Verb** Verb (say/says/said) in reporting speech, is called 'reporting verb',

e.g. He **says** to me, "You are my friend."



Reporting verb

## Changing of Reporting Verb

Reporting Verb	Changed
say/says/said	say/says/said
say to / says to / said to	tell/tells/told

- e.g. (i) I say, "He was ill."  
I say that he was ill.
- (ii) You said to Hari, "He could jump."  
You told Hari that he could jump.

## Changing of the Subject of Reported Speech

Direct Speech	Changed
I, We	According to the subject of reporting speech.
You	According to the object of reporting speech.
He, She, It, Name, They	No change

- e.g. (i) He said to me, "I do not respect you."  
He told me that he did not respect me.
- (ii) You say to him, "She reads this book."  
You tell him that she reads this book.

**Changing of Tense of Reported Speech** If the reporting verb is in past (said/said to), the tense of reported speech is changed.

Direct Speech	Changed in Indirect Speech
Present Simple (Play/Plays)	Past Simple (Played)
Past Simple (Played)	Past Perfect (had Played)
Present Continuous (is playing)	Past Continuous (was playing)
Past Continuous (was playing)	Past Perfect Continuous (had been playing)
Present Perfect (has played)	Past Perfect (had played)

## 5. Modals

Can play	Could play
Will play	Would play
Shall play	Would / Should play
May play	Might play

- e.g. (i) I said to Mohan, " You cannot jump into the river."  
I told Mohan that he **could** not jump in to the river.
- (ii) He said to me, " I have called him."  
He told me that he had **called** him.

**Changing of Some Expressions** These words are changed only when reporting verb is in past tense (said / said to)

Direct	Changed
This	That
These	Those
Here	There
Ago	Before
Now	Then
To day	That day
To night	That night
Yesterday	The previous day
Tomorrow	The next day

- e.g. (i) She said to me, "My mother is cooking food now."  
She told me that her mother was cooking food then.
- (ii) I said to him, " He does not sit here. "  
I told him that he did not sit there.

## Exception

- No change is required when reported speech is a universal truth, historical fact and habitual action.  
e.g.
  - (i) He said, " Man is mortal."  
He said that man is mortal.
  - (ii) The teacher said to us, "Akbar defeated Rana Pratap in the Battle of Haldighati."  
The teacher told us that Akbar defeated Rana Pratap in the Battle of Haldighati.

## Interrogative Sentence

While changing indirect of an interrogative sentence following changes are introduced

### 1.

Reporting Verb	Changed
say/ says to	ask
says / says to	asks
said / said to	asked

### 2. If or whether is used in place of 'that'.

- e.g.
- (i) He says to her, "Are you happy?"  
He asks her if she is happy.
- (ii) I said to her, " Will you help me? "  
I asked her if she would help me.

## Type Questions

- If interrogative sentence starts with a question word (what, where, why etc), it replace if or whether as connector in indirect speech.  
e.g.
  - (i) He said, " Why has she failed?"  
He asked why she had failed.
  - (ii) Harish said to me, " What should we sing?"  
Harish asked me what they should sing.

# Practice Exercise

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 1-10) *Change the following sentences into indirect speech by choosing the correct option.*

1. He says, "Switzerland is the heaven on the Earth."  
(a) He said that Switzerland is the heaven on the Earth.  
(b) He told that Switzerland was the heaven on the Earth.  
(c) He says that Switzerland is the heaven on the Earth.  
(d) He tells that Switzerland is the heaven on the Earth.
2. The shopkeeper says, "Prices are shooting up alarmingly."  
(a) The shopkeeper says that prices are shooting up alarmingly.  
(b) The shopkeeper said that prices are shooting up alarmingly.  
(c) The shopkeeper says that prices were shooting up alarmingly.  
(d) The shopkeeper tells that prices will be shooting up alarmingly.
3. She said, "Nobody can solve the problem."  
(a) She said that no body can solve that problem.  
(b) She said that nobody could solve the problem.  
(c) She told that nobody can solve the problem.  
(d) She said nobody could have solved the problem.
4. Sheela said to Meera, "I shall be taking a test."  
(a) Sheela said to Meera that she shall be taking a test.  
(b) Sheela told Meera that she would be taking a test.  
(c) Sheela said to Meera that she will take a test.  
(d) Sheela said to Meera that she should be taking a test.
5. Antony said, "Martin has gone home."  
(a) Antony told that Martin has gone home.  
(b) Antony said that Martin has gone home.  
(c) Antony said that Martin had gone home.  
(d) Antony said that Martin would have gone home.
6. She said to me, "How have you done this sum?"  
(a) She asked me how have I done this sum?  
(b) She asked me how I had done that sum.  
(c) She asked me how did I do that sum.  
(d) She asked me how I did that sum.
7. The man said, "Is your father at home?"  
(a) The man said if her father was at home.  
(b) The man asked me whether my father was at home.  
(c) The man asked if at home my father was.  
(d) The man enquired if my father is at home.
8. She said, "Will you tell me what it means, David?"  
(a) She asked David if he would tell her what it meant.  
(b) She said to David if he will tell her what it meant.  
(c) She asked David if he will tell her what it means.  
(d) She told David if he would tell her what it meant.
9. The wolf said to the lamb, "Don't make the water muddy."  
(a) The wolf told the lamb not to make the water muddy.  
(b) The wolf commanded the lamb not to make the water dirty.  
(c) The wolf ordered the lamb to not to make the water dirty.  
(d) The wolf said to the lamb not to dirty the water.

