

Direct speech and Indirect speech



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◆ 1. What is Direct Speech?

📖 Definition:

Direct speech reports the exact words spoken by a person and is placed within quotation marks (" ").

✅ Structure:

Subject + reporting verb + comma + “quoted sentence.”

◆ Example:

- Ram said, “I love ice cream.”
- The teacher asked, “Have you done your homework?”

◆ 2. What is Indirect Speech?

📖 Definition:

Indirect speech (or reported speech) expresses the same idea as the original sentence but without using the exact words. It changes the tense, pronouns, and sometimes time/place expressions.

✓ Structure:

Subject + reporting verb + that/if/whether + changed sentence

◆ Example:

- Ram said that he loved ice cream.
- The teacher asked if we had done our homework.

3. Tense Changes in Reported Speech

- Tense changes only if the reporting verb is in the past tense (said, asked, told, etc.)

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Simple Present → Simple Past	"I work hard." → He said he worked hard.
Present Continuous → Past Continuous	"I am studying." → She said she was studying.
Present Perfect → Past Perfect	"I have eaten." → He said he had eaten.
Past Simple → Past Perfect	"I saw her." → He said he had seen her.
Past Continuous → Past Perfect Continuous	"I was waiting." → She said she had been waiting.
Will → Would	"I will come." → He said he would come.
Can → Could	"I can dance." → She said she could dance.
Shall → Should	"I shall help." → He said he should help.
May → Might	"I may go." → He said he might go.

◆ 4. Changes in Pronouns

Pronouns in indirect speech must match the context of the speaker and listener.

🧠 Rule:

- ▶ The first person pronoun changes based on the subject of the reporting verb.
The second person changes based on the object of the reporting verb.
The third person usually remains unchanged.

Direct

She said, “I am tired.”

He told me, “You are late.”

They said, “He is our friend.”

Indirect

She said she was tired.

He told me I was late.

They said he was their friend.

◆ 5. Time and Place Word Changes

- ▶ These words change when the time/place of reporting is different from the original.

Direct Speech

today → that day

tomorrow → the next day /
following day

yesterday → the day before /
previous day

now → then

here → there

this → that

Indirect Speech

“I’m busy today.” → He said he
was busy that day.

“I’ll go tomorrow.” → She said she
would go the next day.

“I came yesterday.” → He said he
had come the day before.

“I’m working now.” → She said she
was working then.

“Come here!” → He told me to
come there.

“This book is mine.” → He said
that book was his.

◆ 6. Types of Sentences in Indirect Speech

Let's look at how different sentence types are reported.

A. Statements (Declarative Sentences)

Use “that” (can be optional in modern English)

▶ Direct: He said, “I am learning French.”

Indirect: He said (that) he was learning French.

B. Yes/No Questions

Use if or whether (no question marks, change the order)

▶ Direct: She asked, "Are you coming?"

Indirect: She asked if I was coming.

C. Wh- Questions (What, Why, Where, When, etc.)

Keep the question word, remove question form.

▶ Direct: He asked, "Where do you live?"

Indirect: He asked where I lived.

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D. Imperatives (Commands or Requests)

Use to + verb for commands, not to + verb for negative commands

Use told, ordered, or requested depending on tone

Direct: She said, “Close the door.”

Indirect: She told me to close the door.

Direct: He said, “Don’t talk!”

Indirect: He told me not to talk.

► **Direct: “Please help me,” she said.**

Indirect: She requested me to help her.

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◆ 7. Reporting Verbs

- ▶ Use different verbs depending on what was said:

Function	Verbs
Stating	said, told, mentioned, explained, added
Asking	asked, inquired, wondered
Requesting	requested, begged, pleaded
Commanding	ordered, instructed, told
Advising	advised, suggested, warned

◆ 8. Universal Truth Exception

Tense does not change for universal truths or scientific facts.

▶ Direct: He said, “The sun rises in the east.”

Indirect: He said that the sun rises in the east. ✓

← END Final Tips

✓ Always check:

- Tense of reporting verb
- Sentence type (statement, question, command)
- Pronoun consistency
- Time/place word changes
- Use of appropriate conjunction (that, if, wh-word)

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Direct and Indirect Speech

Instructions: Convert the following direct speech sentences into indirect speech.

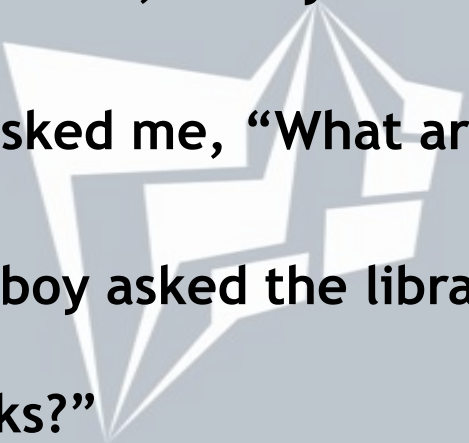
A. Statements (Change to Indirect Speech)

1. He said, “I have never seen such a beautiful sunset before.”
2. Riya said, “We will complete the project by next Monday.”
3. The scientist said, “Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.”
4. My friend said, “I am reading an interesting novel these days.”
5. She said, “I was watching a movie when the lights went out.”

A. Reporting Questions

(Yes/No Questions & WH- Questions)

1. She asked, “Did you complete the application form?”
2. He asked me, “What are you looking for in the drawer?”
3. The boy asked the librarian, “Can I borrow this book for two weeks?”
4. Maya asked Ritu, “Where did you buy this beautiful dress?”
5. The stranger asked, “Is there a pharmacy nearby?”



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B. Reporting Commands and Requests

1. The nurse said to the patient, “Take this medicine after lunch.”
2. The teacher said to the students, “Do not use mobile phones during the class.”
3. The judge said, “Speak the truth and nothing but the truth.”
4. The policeman ordered, “Show me your license and registration.”
5. My mother said to me, “Please water the plants while I’m away.”

◆ A. Story-Based Reporting

Instructions: Read the sentences below and rewrite the entire paragraph in indirect speech.

1. Riya met her best friend after a long time. She said, “I missed you so much!”

Her friend smiled and replied, “I missed you too. Where have you been all these months?”

Riya explained, “I had gone to my grandparents’ house in Kerala.”

✎ **Your Task: Convert the whole conversation into a paragraph using indirect speech.**

◆ C. Dialogue Rewriting Challenge

Below is a short dialogue. Rewrite the dialogue in indirect speech as a narrative paragraph.

Teacher: "Why are you late today?"

Student: "I missed the bus."

Teacher: "You should leave earlier next time."

Student: "I will. I'm really sorry."



◆ Dialogue to News Report

Imagine a conversation between a famous athlete and a journalist:

 **Journalist: “How do you feel after winning the championship?”**

 **Athlete: “It’s a dream come true. I trained hard for this moment.”**

 **Journalist: “Any plans for celebrating?”**

 **Athlete: “I’ll spend time with my family and thank my coach.”**

 **Your Task: Write a short news article (5–6 sentences) using indirect speech to report this conversation.**

◆ Rewrite a Scene from a Play

Imagine you are watching a play and hear this exchange:

👑 King: “Prepare the army. We leave at dawn.”

👤 General: “Yes, Your Majesty. The soldiers will be ready.”

👑 King: “Victory shall be ours!”

✎ Your Task: Write a dramatic narrative using indirect speech to describe this scene.

Turn a Text Message Exchange into Indirect Speech

Imagine this message thread between two friends:

📱 Riya: “Where are you? We’re waiting at the café.”

📱 Neha: “Sorry! I got stuck in traffic. I’ll be there in 10 minutes.”

📱 Riya: “Okay, don’t worry. We’ve ordered your favorite drink!”

✎ Your Task: Rewrite this exchange in indirect speech as a paragraph.