

Converting Direct to Indirect speech

Direct vs. Indirect speech

Reporting questions

1. Use a question-report verb like *ask*.
2. Change the pronouns, backshift the tense, change the time and place expressions.
3. Use statement word order.

Direct speech: "What do you want?" she asked me.

Indirect speech: She asked me what I wanted.

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1. Use a question-report verb like ask.
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Direct speech: He asked, "Where **did** Salman **go** yesterday?"

Indirect speech: He asked where Salman **had gone** the day before / the previous day.

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Reporting questions

1. Use a question-report verb like *ask*.
2. Change the pronouns, backshift the tense, change the time and place expressions.
3. Use statement word order.
4. Use *if* or *whether* to report yes/no questions.

Direct speech: "Do you like coffee?" she asked.

Indirect speech: She asked if I liked coffee.

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Direct speech: He asked her, "Why is the baby crying?"

Indirect speech: He asked her why the baby was crying.

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Direct speech: "Does this hotel have a swimming pool?" the guests inquired.

Indirect speech: The guests inquired whether the hotel had a swimming pool.

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4. Use *if* or *whether* to report yes/no questions.

Direct speech: "Who has eaten all the cookies?" asked Rick's mother.

Indirect speech: Rick's mother asked who had eaten all the cookies.

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Direct speech: "Are they leaving tomorrow morning?" Shivani asked.

Indirect speech: Shivani asked if they **were leaving** the next morning / the following morning.

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Direct speech: He asked, "How long should I boil an egg?"

Indirect speech: He asked how long he *should* boil an egg.

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Direct speech: Colton asked me, "Have you received the package?"

Indirect speech: Colton wanted to know if I **had** received the package.

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4. Use *if* or *whether* to report yes/no questions.

Direct speech: "When **will** your sister get here?" she asked her husband.

Indirect speech: She asked her husband when his sister **would** get there.

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4. Use *if* or *whether* to report yes/no questions.

Direct speech: "Why didn't you attend the meeting?" my boss questioned.

Indirect speech: My boss questioned why I hadn't attended the meeting.

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1. Use a question-report verb like *ask*.
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3. Use statement word order.
4. Use *if* or *whether* to report yes/no questions.

Direct speech: "Didn't Nicole tell you we were coming today?" he asked.

Indirect speech: He asked whether Nicole hadn't told us that they were coming that day.

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Converting Direct to Indirect speech

(i) Change the following dialogues in indirect speech of narration.

Ajay : Do you want to play with us?

Mohan : Yes, But I have been too late.

Ajay : It does not matter, come in the ground.

Mohan : Thanks.

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ENGLISH
ACADEMY

ANYBODY CAN SPEAK

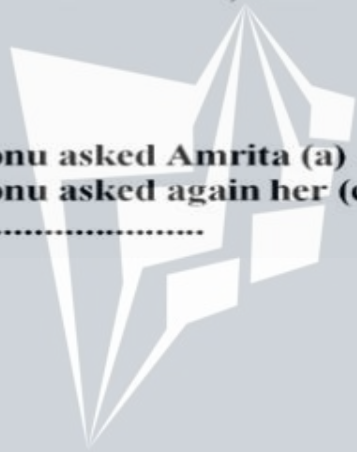


Converting Direct to Indirect speech

Q1. Fill the gap to convert the following dialogue into indirect form of narration.

Sonu : When do you get up?
Amrita : I get up at 7 a.m.
Sonu : Do you go for morning walk?
Amrita : No, I am always late.

Sonu asked Amrita (a) Amrita replied Sonu (b)
Sonu asked again her (c) Amrita replied him in negative and told that (d)



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ENGLISH
ACADEMY

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Converting Direct to Indirect speech

Read each situation and write dialogues for it. Then convert them to reported speech.

e.g. Two friends talking about going for a movie.

Kala : I can't go for the movie.

Hema: Oh! Why not?

Kala : I spent all my pocket money on buying clothes.

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Converting Direct to Indirect speech

(ii) Change the following dialogues in indirect speech of narration.

Sonu : What do you think now?

Shiela : I am thinking about my future.

Sonu : What is your future plan?

Shiela : I want to be a poltician.

Converting Direct to Indirect speech

(iii) Change the following dialogues in indirect speech of narration.

Ankit : Where are you going?

Atul : To the airport.

Ankit : May I drop you there in my car?

Atul : Thanks a lot. It will be a great help to me.

ANYBODY CAN SPEAK

Dialogue Reporting Practice Questions

Q. Read the conversation between a teacher and student and complete the passage that follows.

Biology Teacher: I instructed you to draw the diagram of bacteria. Why did you submit a blank sheet?

Sameer: Sir, I had drawn the diagram of bacteria, but you can't see it because it is not visible to the naked eye

The biology teacher had instructed Sameer to draw the diagram of a bacterial cell and asked him (a)a blank sheet.

Sameer respectfully answered that he had drawn the diagram but (b) **ANYBODY CAN SPEAK**to the naked eye.

Q. Read the following dialogue between a mother and her son. Complete the paragraph that follows by filling in the gaps appropriately.

Marie: Did you see my new umbrella? Isn't it fine?

Tony: Yes, it is! Did you buy it from the mall?

Marie: No, your father has brought it for me.

Marie asked her son Tony (a) and she wanted to know whether it was a fine one. Tony agreed and asked his mother (b) His mother replied in the negative and added that (c)

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Answers

Convert the direct speech to reported speech (simple present)

Note: simple present (sub+v1+obj) to past simple (sub+v2+obj)

1. Helen said that she spoke English and Spanish.
2. Ken said that Joy often read comics.
3. Harish and Mary told that they went to the lake.
4. Madhu said that she was tired.
5. Amy said that the boys always wore jeans.
6. Ram and Ravi said that their smartphones didn't work.
7. Lisa said that Alen sometimes met friends

Convert the following sentences into passive voice (simple present)

8. Andrew said that he really loved his drawing.

9. Nick said that I had a fantasy car.

10. Josie said that my dogs were cute.

Convert the direct speech to reported speech (present continuous)

Note: present continuous (sub+is/am/are+v1+ing+obj) to past continuous (sub+was/were+v1+ing+obj)

1. Jenny said that she was coming down.
2. Tim said that Jack was having breakfast.
3. Aravind said that she was telling a joke.
4. Mani said that the dog was running after the cat.
5. Peter said that he was playing the piano.
6. Zack said that I was drinking tea.
7. Ella said that it was not raining.
8. Jacob said that Renu was checking the computer.
9. Cathy said that they weren't watching TV.
10. Nora said that he was learning Spanish words.

Convert the direct speech to reported speech (present perfect)

Note: present perfect (sub+has/have+v3+obj) to past perfect (sub+had+v3+obj)

1. Grandma told that Dad has made breakfast.
2. Priya and Raghu said that they had cleaned the kitchen.
3. Tom told that he had left the home.
4. Elsa told she had taken great photos.
5. Mohan said that they had written text messages.
6. Henry said that Lisa had tried skateboarding.
7. Arjun said that Rithu had never touched a snake.
8. Lohith said that he hadn't seen his brother since 2018.
9. Grace told that Ken had fed the pets.
10. Ruby said that Arjun had not collected stickers.

Convert the direct speech to reported speech (simple past and past continuous)

Note: simple past (sub+v2+obj)

1. Alexandar told that he had a meeting at four.
2. Sophia said that Dev had forgot his keys.
3. Elina said that the train had left at eight.
4. Hana said that she had walked to the museum.
5. Grandma said that she had been praying since morning.
6. She said that she had been trembling with fear.
7. The boy said that he had been roaming the street.
8. The girl said that she had been window shopping.
9. They said that they had been listening to songs on youtube.
10. The nurse said that Baley had been suffering from fever.

Convert the direct speech to reported speech (simple past and past continuous)

Note: simple future (sub+will/shall+v1+obj → sub+would+v1+obj)

* The present conditional describes a situation now that isn't true or isn't happening

1. Tarun said that he would come first.
2. The student said that he would study harder.
3. They said that he would visit Bangkok.
4. Madhu told that she would become PM.
5. The businessman told would become a billionaire one day.
6. She told that he would buy a computer.
7. He said that he would study the book.
8. Rina and Ram told that they would learn new phrases.
9. Jermy told that they wouldn't drink coffee.
10. Alex said that the cat wouldn't climb the tree.

Convert the direct speech to reported speech (future continuous)

1. The watchman told that they would be waiting for me.
2. My brother said that he would be getting older in 10 years.
3. My teacher said that I would be scoring good grades in the examination.
4. She told that she would be marrying in 3 years.
5. Priya told that Ram would be achieving his objective soon.
6. Jade told Martin that she would be working as an air hostess by 2023.
7. The doctor told him that he would be recovering from the pain.

Converting Direct to Indirect speech

Answers

Ajay & Mohan:

Ajay asked Mohan if he wanted to play with them. Mohan replied him positive and told that he had been too late. Further Ajay said that, it did not matter and advised him to come in the ground. Then Mohan thanked him.

Sonu & Anuritha

- that when did he get up.
- that he got up at 7 am.
- that if he went for morning walk.
- he was always late.

Kala and Hema

Kala told Hema that she couldn't go for the movie because she had spent all her pocket money on buying clothes.

Sonu and Shielu

Sonu asked Shielu that what she thought ~~thought~~ then. Shielu replied that she was thinking about her future. Sonu questioned Shielu that what her future plan was. She replied that she wanted to be a politician.

Converting Direct to Indirect speech

DATE

Ankit to Atul
X

Ankit asked Atul that where he was going. Atul replied that he would like to go to the airport. Ankit ~~added~~ asked that whether he dropped him there in his car. Atul thanked him and told that it would be a great help to him.

Q. Read the conversation between a teacher and student and complete the passage that follows.

Biology Teacher: I instructed you to draw the diagram of bacteria. Why did you submit a blank sheet?

Sameer: Sir, I had drawn the diagram of bacteria, but you can't see it because it is not visible to the naked eye

The biology teacher had instructed Sameer to draw the diagram of a bacterial cell and asked him (a)a blank sheet.

Sameer respectfully answered that he had drawn the diagram but (b)

.....to the naked eye.

Answer:

(a) why he had submitted

(b) he/ the teacher couldn't see it because it is not visible

Q. Read the following dialogue between a mother and her son. Complete the paragraph that follows by filling in the gaps appropriately.

Marie: Did you see my new umbrella? Isn't it fine?

Tony: Yes, it is! Did you buy it from the mall?

Marie: No, your father has brought it for me.

Marie asked her son Tony (a) and she wanted to know whether it was a fine one. Tony agreed and asked his mother (b) His mother replied in the negative and added that (c)

Answer

(a) if he had seen her new umbrella

(b) if she had brought it from the mall

(c) his father had brought it for her.