

## Direct and Indirect Speech

We can narrate something, said by someone else in two ways, either we repeat his / her words or we convey the same meaning in our own words. The former mode of communication is called direct speech, and the later is called indirect speech.

### Example:

Direct: He said, "I am very angry."

Indirect: He said that he was very angry.

In case of direct speech every sentence has two parts.

### Reporting speech

The words, given outside the inverted commas are called reporting speech.

### Reported speech

The words, within the inverted commas are called reported speech.

### Example:

He said, "I am very angry."  
(Reporting speech) (Reported speech)

## Rules

### 1. Change of Pronoun:

- 1<sup>st</sup> person pronoun (I /We) changes to the subject of the reporting speech.  
He says, "I have no money ."  
("He" is Subject of reported speech) ("I" is (subject) Pronoun of first person)  
He says that he has no money.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> person pronoun ( you) changes to the object of the reporting speech.  
He says to me, "You are playing well".  
("me" is Object of reporting speech) ("You" (sub) is pronoun of 2<sup>nd</sup> person.)  
He tells me that I am playing well.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronoun (they, he she, it) do not change.  
He says, "They play well".  
Third person pronoun. ( He, She, They)  
He says that they play well.

Case	Nominative case	Possessive case	Object case
1 <sup>st</sup> person	I, we	My, our	Me, us
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	You	Your	You
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	He, she, they	His, her, they	Him, her, them

Example :

Bilal said to me, " I have lost my pen". (Direct narration)

Bilal told me that he had lost his pen. (Indirect narration)

## 2. Change of the Verb:

If the verb of the reporting speech is in the present or in future, the tense or the verb of the reported speech does not change.

### Example:

Direct : He says, " I am a poor but a humble man".

Indirect : He says that he is a poor but a humble man.

Direct : He says to me, " I like mangoes."

Indirect : He tells me that he likes mangoes.

Direct : She will say, " I sing a song.

Indirect: She will say that she sings a song.

Direct : He says. "I liked mangoes."

Indirect: He says that he liked mangoes.

Direct : He says. "He was a good player of hockey."

Indirect: He says that he was a good player of hockey.

If the reported speech expresses a universal truth, the tense will not be changed.

### Example:

Direct : The teacher says, " Honesty is the best policy".

indirect : The teacher says that honesty is the best policy.

Direct: He says , " Allah is present everywhere".

Indirect: He says that Allah is present everywhere.

Direct : The teacher said, " Earth revolves around the Sun."

Indirect: The teacher said that earth revolves around the sun.

If there is "**say to**" in the verb of reporting speech then it will change into "**tell**". if there is "**says to**" then it will change into tells. It there is "**Say**", it will remain the same.

If the verb of the reporting speech is in the past tense, the reported speech will be changed as below:

Changes will be as:

Tense	change into
Present indefinite	Past indefinite Tense
Present continuous tense	Past continuous Tense
Present perfect tense	Past perfect Tense
Present perfect continuous Tense	Past perfect continuous Tense
Past Indefinite Tense	Past Perfect Tense
Past Continuous Tense	Past Perfect Continuous Tense
Past Perfect Tense	Past Perfect Tense
Past Perfect continuous Tense	Past Perfect Continuous Tense
Will / shall	would
Tonight	that night
Today	that day
Yesterday	the previous day
Tomorrow	the next day
The next day	the following day
This	that
These	those
These	those
Here	there
Now	then
Before	ago
Was / were	Had been
Is , are , am	was , were
Has / have	Had
Has been / Have been	Had been
Can	could
May	might
Must	had to
Good morning, farewell, good noon, Good day	greeting
Good night/	Remain same

### 3. Omission of commas:

Inverted commas of direct narration will be changed as follows in indirect narration.

Simple sentence.	Commas replaced by	that
Negative sentences	commas replaced by	that
Optative sentences	commas replaced by	that
Exclamatory sentences	commas replaced by	that
Imperative sentences	commas replaced by	to
Interrogative sentences (With Helping Verb)	commas replaced by	if / whether
Interrogative sentences ( With What, How Where,What,Who)	commas are removed by no new word	

(open end / who )

The reporting verb changes as follows:

Sentence	Reporting	Reported
Simple	said to	Told
	Said	
Negative	said to	Told
Interrogative	said to	asked/ enquired.
Imperative	said to	advised/ requested/ ordered/ Demanded/ bade / forbade/ Commanded. According to the sentence.
Optative	said to	wished / prayed
Exclamatory	said to	Exclaimed with joy/ Exclaimed with sorrow/ Exclaimed with wonder.
Use of let	said/ said to	Requested / proposed/ suggested

## **There are five kinds of sentences.**

- i. Assertive Sentences
- ii. Optative Sentences
- iii. Imperative Sentences
- iv. Interrogative Sentences
- v. Exclamatory Sentences

### **i. Change in Assertive Sentences**

If there is **“said to”** in the verb of reporting speech then it will change into **“told”**. If there is **“said ”** then it will remain same.

Direct: He said, “I love my country.”

Indirect: He said that he loved his country.

Direct: He said to his friend, “He is suffered from fever.

Indirect: He told his friend that he was suffered from fever.

Direct: I said to him, “You have drawn a picture.”

Indirect: I told him that he had drawn a picture.

Direct: She said to me, “ I have been reading novel since 2001.”

Indirect: She told me that she had been reading novels since 2001.

Direct: He said, “I wrote a letter yesterday.”

Indirect: He said that he had written a letter the previous day .

Direct: They said to us, “we were not making a noise.”

Indirect: They told us that they had not been making a noise.

Direct: He said, “I had been writing a letter for many days”

Indirect: He said that he had been writing a letter for many days.

## ii. Change in Interrogative sentences

### Statements where Questions are asked.

When sentence is in **interrogative** and direct speech and starts with “ **which, who , what, how, why,**” the verb will be change with **inquired** and **asked** and **that** will not be used.

#### Example:

Direct: I said to him, “What is your name?”

Indirect: I asked him what his name was.

Direct: He said to the boy, “Why are you weeping?”

Indirect: He inquired the boy why he was weeping.

If interrogative sentences start with “**helping verb/ Auxiliary verb**” The statement will be changed with **if or whether**.

#### Example:

Direct: He said to the teacher, “Do you think my essay is good?”

Indirect: He asked the teacher if he thought his essay was good.

Direct : He said to me, “ Have you written my name?”

Indirect: He asked me if I had written his name.

## iii. Change in Imperative Sentences

### Command and request

In indirect speech , **command** and **request** are introduced with an **infinitive** that will be changed into **told , ordered, commanded, requested , suggested** etc, according to the sense.

#### Example:

Direct : He said to his servant, “ Fetch me a glass of water.”

Indirect : He ordered his servant to fetch a glass of water.

Direct : He said to the peon, “ Ring the bell.”

Indirect : He ordered the peon to ring the bell.

Direct : The student said to the teacher , “ Please accept my application.”

Indirect : The student requested the teacher to accept his application.

#### iv. Optative sentences

In these sentences after "that "use word 'prayed' or 'wished'.

##### Example:

Direct: He said, “May you live long”.

Indirect He prayed that I might live long.

Direct: He said to me, “May you succeed!”

Indirect: He wished for me that I might succeed.

#### v. Exclamatory sentences

In these sentences use word **“exclaimed with joy”, “exclaimed with sorrow”**  
**“Exclaimed with surprise” “Exclaimed with wonder” “Exclaimed with grief”**  
instead of **said** or **said to**.

##### Example:

Direct: He said , “ What a beautiful piece of art.”

Indirect: He exclaimed with joy that a piece of art was very beautiful.

Direct: He said, "What a beautiful doll it is!"

Indirect: He exclaimed that it was a very beautiful doll.

Direct: He said, “Alas! We have lost the match.’

Indirect: He exclaimed with sorrow that they had lost the match.

#### Change in “Let” Sentences:

In these sentences, **suggestion, propose or order is given**. The word **“said to”** will replace with **Suggested, Proposed or ordered**.

●If **“let”** is used in connection with permission, we used suggest, propose etc, and after them **“to”** and verb are used as usual. **“May or might or should”** can also be used.

●If **“let us”** is used , we use propose and suggest and after them **may, might, or should** is used **commas** are replaced by **that** .

•At times, “let” is used for order or warning and used with other pronouns. In indirect speech, **warned, ordered, threatened** are used after them “to” is used and “verb” remain same.

Direct speech: Usman said, “Let me do my work”!

Indirect speech: Usman requested them to let him do his work.

Direct speech: She said to her friend, “Let us play hockey”.

Indirect speech: she proposed to her friend that they should play hockey.

Direct : He said , “ let us go for a walk.”

Indirect: He proposed that they should go out for a walk.

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