

Direct & Indirect Speech

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
In direct speech, the actual words spoken by a person are enclosed in quotation marks. The reporting verb is used to introduce the speaker's words.	In indirect speech, you report what someone else has said without quoting their exact words. The tense, pronouns, and other words may change to fit the context of the reporting sentence.
Structure Reporting verb + Quotation marks + Exact words spoken + Punctuation	Structure Reporting verb + That + Subject + Verb (according to the reporting verb) + Other modifications
Example She said, "I will be there at 3 o'clock." "Please pass me the salt," he requested.	Example She said that she would be there at 3 o'clock. He requested to pass him the salt.

Changes in Pronouns and Verb Tenses:

1. **Pronouns:**

- Change of pronouns is often necessary in indirect speech.
 - Direct: He said, "I am busy."
 - Indirect: He said that he was busy.

2. **Verb Tenses:**

- Tense changes occur in indirect speech, typically shifting back one step in time.
 - Direct: She said, "I will come."
 - Indirect: She said that she would come.

3. **Time Expressions:**

- Time expressions may need to be adjusted according to the reporting context.
 - Direct: He said, "I saw her yesterday."
 - Indirect: He said that he had seen her the day before.

4. **Modals:**

- Modal verbs may change based on the context.
 - Direct: She said, "I can swim."
 - Indirect: She said that she could swim.

Imperative Sentences:

For imperative sentences, the reporting verb "said" is often replaced with "asked" or "told."

Example:

1. Direct: "Close the door," she said.
 - Indirect: She told me to close the door.

Reporting Verbs:

1. **Reporting Verbs in Direct Speech:**

- Reporting verbs such as "say," "tell," "ask," "shout," etc., are used to introduce direct speech.
 - Example: She said, "I love this book."

2. **Reporting Verbs in Indirect Speech:**

- When reporting speech indirectly, the reporting verb is often changed based on the nature of the original speech.
 - Example: She explained that she loved the book.

Reporting Questions:

1. **Direct Speech Questions:**

- Direct questions are usually introduced by question words like "who," "what," "where," "why," etc.
 - Example: "Where are you going?" she asked.

2. **Indirect Speech Questions:**

- In indirect speech, questions are transformed into statements, often using the word "if" or a conjunction.
 - Example: She asked where I was going.

Expressing Commands:

1. **Direct Speech Commands:**

- Direct speech for commands often uses the imperative form.
 - Example: "Sit down," the teacher commanded.

2. **Indirect Speech Commands:**

- Indirect speech for commands usually involves changing the reporting verb and using an infinitive.
 - Example: The teacher commanded us to sit down.

Expressing Exclamations:

1. **Direct Speech Exclamations:**

- Exclamatory sentences retain their exclamation mark in direct speech.
 - Example: "What a beautiful day!" she exclaimed.

2. **Indirect Speech Exclamations:**

- The exclamation may be reported with words expressing surprise, joy, etc.
 - Example: She exclaimed with joy that it was such a beautiful day.

Expressing Uncertainty:

1. **Direct Speech Uncertainty:**

- Words like "maybe," "perhaps," etc., can be used in direct speech to express uncertainty.
 - Example: "Perhaps I'll come later," she said.

2. **Indirect Speech Uncertainty:**

- The uncertainty is retained in indirect speech.
 - Example: She said that perhaps she would come later.

Other Points to Consider:

1. **Punctuation:**

- In direct speech, the quoted words are enclosed in quotation marks.
- In indirect speech, there are no quotation marks, but appropriate punctuation is used.

2. **Conjunctions:**

- Conjunctions like "that," "if," or "whether" are often used in indirect speech.
 - Example: She said (that) she would be late.

Worksheets with answers

Exercise 1: Convert the following direct speech into indirect speech.

1. "I will visit you tomorrow," she said.
 - **Answer:** She said that she would visit me the next day.
2. "Where are my keys?" he asked.
 - **Answer:** He asked where his keys were.
3. "Please help me with my homework," she pleaded.
 - **Answer:** She pleaded for help with her homework.
4. "I can't believe it's raining again," he exclaimed.
 - **Answer:** He exclaimed that he couldn't believe it was raining again.
5. "Sit down and be quiet!" the teacher commanded.
 - **Answer:** The teacher commanded to sit down and be quiet.

Exercise 2: Convert the following indirect speech into direct speech.

1. She told me to clean my room.
 - **Answer:** "Clean your room," she said.
2. He said that he had already finished his work.
 - **Answer:** "I have already finished my work," he said.
3. She asked if I could lend her some money.
 - **Answer:** "Can you lend me some money?" she asked.
4. They wondered why the meeting had been canceled.
 - **Answer:** "Why was the meeting canceled?" they wondered.
5. He mentioned that he might go on a vacation.
 - **Answer:** "I might go on a vacation," he mentioned.

Exercise 3: Combine the given sentences using direct or indirect speech.

1. She said, "I won't be able to attend the party."
 - **Answer:** She said that she wouldn't be able to attend the party.
2. "How did you learn to play the guitar?" he asked.
 - **Answer:** He asked how I had learned to play the guitar.
3. He said, "I am going to the store. Do you need anything?"
 - **Answer:** He said that he was going to the store and asked if I needed anything.

4. "This cake is delicious!" she exclaimed.
 - **Answer:** She exclaimed that the cake was delicious.
5. "Why are you late?" the teacher inquired.
 - **Answer:** The teacher inquired why I was late.

Exercise 4: Convert the following direct speech into indirect speech.

1. "I am not feeling well," she said.
 - **Answer:** She said that she was not feeling well.
2. "I won the first prize in the competition," he announced.
 - **Answer:** He announced that he had won the first prize in the competition.
3. "Don't forget to water the plants," the gardener advised.
 - **Answer:** The gardener advised not to forget to water the plants.
4. "I have never been to Paris before," she admitted.
 - **Answer:** She admitted that she had never been to Paris before.
5. "Stop making so much noise!" the librarian scolded.
 - **Answer:** The librarian scolded to stop making so much noise.

Exercise 5: Convert the following indirect speech into direct speech.

1. She told him to leave her alone.
 - **Answer:** "Leave me alone," she told him.
2. He mentioned that he had seen an interesting documentary the night before.
 - **Answer:** "I saw an interesting documentary last night," he mentioned.
3. They asked if we could join them for dinner.
 - **Answer:** "Can we join you for dinner?" they asked.
4. The teacher explained that the exam would be postponed.
 - **Answer:** "The exam will be postponed," the teacher explained.
5. She stated that she might consider the job offer.
 - **Answer:** "I might consider the job offer," she stated.