**DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH:**

**Direct Speech / Quoted Speech**

The technique of reproducing the exact words spoken by a person is called the use of the direct speech.

Example: Ravi said, “I am playing Cricket.”

**Indirect Speech / Reported Speech**

When the words spoken by a person are reproduced or rewritten in our own words by changing the tense and the person whenever necessary, it is called the indirect speech.

Example: Ravi said that he was playing.

**Rules for changing Direct into Indirect Speech:**

A. If the reporting verb is in present OR future tense, the tenses of the Direct Speech do not change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Speech</th>
<th></th>
<th>Indirect Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Simple present + simple present**  
*He says, “I go to school every day.”* |          | **Simple present + simple present**  
*He says (that) he goes to school every day.* |
| **Present perfect + simple present**  
*He has said, “I go to school every day.”* |          | **Present perfect + simple present**  
*He has said (that) he goes to school every day.* |
| **Future + simple present**  
*He will say, “I go to school every day.”* |          | **Future + simple present**  
*He will say (that) he goes to school every day.* |
B. When the reporting or principal verb is in the Past Tense, all the Present Tenses in the Direct Speech are changed into Past Tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Speech</th>
<th>Indirect Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simple present</strong></td>
<td><strong>Simple past</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>He said, “I go to school every day.”</em></td>
<td><em>He said (that) he went to school every day.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simple past</strong></td>
<td><strong>Past perfect</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>He said, “I went to school every day.”</em></td>
<td><em>He said (that) he had gone to school every day.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Present perfect</strong></td>
<td><strong>Past perfect</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>He said, “I have gone to school every day.”</em></td>
<td><em>He said (that) he had gone to school every day.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Present progressive</strong></td>
<td><strong>Past progressive</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>He said, “I am going to school every day.”</em></td>
<td><em>He said (that) he was going to school every day.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Past progressive</strong></td>
<td><strong>Perfect progressive</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>He said, “I was going to school every day.”</em></td>
<td><em>He said (that) he had been going to school every day,</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Future (will)</strong></td>
<td><strong>would + verb name</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>He said, “I will go to school every day.”</em></td>
<td><em>He said (that) he would go to school every day.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Future (going to)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Present progressive</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>He said, “I am going to school every day.”</em></td>
<td><em>He said (that) he is going to school every day.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Modal verb forms also sometimes change:
Direct Speech

**can**
*He said, “I can go to school every day.”*

**may**
*He said, “I may go to school every day.”*

**might**
*He said, “I might go to school every day.”*

**must**
*He said, “I must go to school every day.”*

**have to**
*He said, “I have to go to school every day.”*

**should**
*He said, “I should go to school every day.”*

**ought to**
*He said, “I ought to go to school every day.”*

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Indirect Speech

**could**
*He said (that) he could go to school every day.*

**might**
*He said (that) he might go to school every day.*

**had to**
*He said (that) he had to go to school every day.*

**should**
*He said (that) he should go to school every day.*

**ought to**
*He said (that) he ought to go to school every day.*

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Exceptions to the rule stated above:
If the reported speech express a universal truth or habitual fact, its tense remain unchanged:
The teacher said, “The earth goes round the sun.”
The teacher said that the earth goes/went round the sun.
She said, “Girls are usually more sincere than boys”
She said that girls are usually more sincere than boys.

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C. Rules for the Change of Pronouns in Indirect Speech:
**First person pronouns** in the direct speech change according to the subject of the reporting verb in the indirect speech.
He told her, “I want to meet your father.”

He told her that he wanted to meet her father.

I said, “I am going.”

I said that I was going.

**Second person pronouns** in the direct speech change according to the object of the reporting verb in the indirect speech.
I told him, “You are a stupid.”

I told him that he was a stupid.

**Third person pronouns** in the direct speech will not change in the indirect speech.
She said, “I am going.”

She said that she was going.

D. Words which get changed when the Direct Speech is changed into Indirect Speech.

**Expressions of time if reported on a different day**
- this (evening) › that (evening)
- today › yesterday ...
- these (days) › those (days)
- Now › Then
- (a week) ago › (a week) before
- last weekend › the weekend before last / the previous weekend
- Here › There
- next (week) › the following (week)
- tomorrow › the next/following day

G. How the Commands and the Requests in the Direct **Speeches** are changed when the Direct Speeches are changed into indirect Speeches?

In reporting commands and requests, the indirect speech is introduced by some verb expressing commands and requests, and the Imperative Mood is changed into Infinitive Mood.
Examples:

- Direct: Raja said to John, “Go away.”
- Indirect: Raja ordered John to go away.

- Direct: He said to Mary, “Please wait here till I return.”
- Indirect: he requested Mary to wait there till he returned.

Are you clear about the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech?

- Direct: “Call the first witness”, said the Judge.
- Indirect: The Judge commanded them to call the first witness.

- Direct: He shouted, “Let me go.”
- Indirect: he shouted to them to let him go.

- Direct: He said, “Be quite and listen to my words”.
- Indirect: He urged them to be quite and listen to his words.

Are you clear about the conversion of Direct to Indirect Speech?

F. How the Exclamation and the Wishes in the Direct Speeches are changed when the Direct Speeches are changed into Indirect Speeches?

In reporting exclamation and wishes, the Indirect Speech is introduced by some verb expressing Exclamation and Wishes.

Examples:

- Direct: He said, “Alas! I am undone”.
- Indirect: He exclaimed sadly that he was undone.

- Direct: Alice said, “How clever I am?”
- Indirect: Alice exclaimed that he was very clever.

- Direct: He said, “Bravo! You have done well.”
• Indirect: he applauded him, saying that he had done well.

G. While reporting Interrogative Sentences, beginning with Auxiliary Verbs, indirectly, observe the following rules:

1. The Reporting Verb - say - is changed into - ask or inquire, demand, etc.
2. Remove the comma and the inverted commas and start the reported speech with the conjunction - if or whether.
3. Change the interrogative form of the reported speech into Assertive form (Helping Verb after Subject).
4. Nouns or Pronouns in the vocative case are treated as objects of their verbs.
5. Other general rules are observed too.

6. Observe the following examples:

1. The Visitor said to me, "Is your father at home?" (Direct)
   The visitor asked me if my father was at home. (Indirect)

2. Netaji said to his men, "Are you ready to die for your country?" (Direct)
   Netaji asked his men if they were ready to die for their country. (Indirect)

3. The host said to the guest, "Would you like to have a cup of tea?" (Direct)
   The host asked the guest if he would like to have a cup of tea. (Indirect)

4. Sohan said, "May I use your pen, Mohan?" (Direct)
   Sohan asked Mohan if he might use his pen. (Indirect)

5. The clerk said to his officer, "Shall I type this letter again, Sir?" (Direct)
   The clerk asked his officer respectfully if he should type that letter again. (Indirect)

6. The crow said, "Are the grapes sour, Mr. Fox?" (Direct)
   The crow asked the fox if the grapes were sour. (Indirect)

While reporting Interrogative Sentences, starting with (What, Why, How, When… etc) indirectly,
Observe the following rules:

1. The Reporting Verb - say - is changed into - ask or inquire - etc. if there is an Object after the Reporting Verb.
2. If the question begins with wh-word, no conjunction is used to introduce the indirect speech.
3. Remove the comma and the inverted commas and start the Reported Speech with the Interrogative word itself.
4. Change the Interrogative Form of the Reported Speech into Assertive form (Helping Verb after Subject).
5. Nouns and Pronouns in the vocative case are treated as Objects of their verbs.
6. Other general rules are to be observed too.

Observe the following examples:
1. The teacher said to Gopal, "Why are you late?"
The teacher asked Gopal why he was late.
2. Geeta said to Suresh, "Why did you break my slate?"
Geeta asked to Suresh why he had broken her slate.
3. He said to me, "How have you done this sum?"
He asked me how I had done that sum.
4. She asked me what my name was.
She said to me, "What is your name?"
5. Ram asked her where she lived.
Ram said to her, "Where do you live?"
6. The lady asked Ramesh when he had met her brother.
The lady said to Ramesh, "When did you meet my brother?"

Q. 1. **Change the following sentences into Reported / Indirect Speech.**
1. "All for me?" an incredulous Dave asked.
   An incredulous Dave asked whether it was all for him.
2. Dr. Martin declared, "Hartman's not normal, he's super normal.
   Dr Martin declared that Hartman's was not normal, he was super normal.
3. She approached and said, "What has happened to you, my daughter Violet?
Addressing her as her daughter Violet, she approached and asked what had happened to her.
4. She said, "Oh my God, I did not know you were so fair.
   She exclaimed that she did not know that I was so fair.
5. "This has been demonstrated in high income countries", said Rawat.
   Rawat said that, that had been demonstrated in high income countries.
6. "What are we going to do about that bloody eagle?" he demanded.
   He demanded to know what they were going to do about that bloody eagle.
7. "Sam's dead", he said.
   He said that Sam was dead.
8. "Don't have any anxiety." Mohini and Padmini said the same to me.
   Mohini and Padmini both told me not to have any anxiety.
9. "The remaining homes will be covered in two months", he said.
   He said that the remaining homes would be covered in two months.
10. Teacher said to me, 'You are an ass; get out!
    Teacher remarked that I was an ass and told me to get out.
11. "Father", he said, "tell me honestly. Do you think I can ever be a doctor?
    He asked his father to tell him honestly if he thought he could ever be a doctor.
12. The little boy would cry out, "Mama, I can't stand it."
    The little boy would cry out to his Mama and say that he couldn't stand it.
13. "Dave", said the other senior, gripping his shoulder, "I can see like an eagle."
    The other senior addressed Dave gripping his shoulder and said that he could see like an eagle.
14. The violet answered, "You are consoling me because you have that which I crave.
    The violet answered that he was consoling her because he had that which she craved.

Q. 2 Change the following sentences into Direct Speech:
1. My doctor advised me to go home and get my affairs in order.
   My doctor advised, "Go home and get your affairs in order."
2. My father told us that the jeep was an expensive resource.
   My father said, "The jeep is an expensive resource.
3. He used to tell us that we should leave our newspaper and our toilet the way we expect to find them.
   He used to say, "You should leave your newspaper and your toilet the way you expect to find them.
4. My mother replied that it did not matter to her that she would not see the flowers in full bloom.
   My mother replied, "It does not matter to me that I will not see the flowers in full bloom.
5. She always told me that nobody could roll out better chappatis - mine didn't resemble a wonky map of India.
   She always said, "Nobody can roll out better chappatis-yours don't resemble a wonky map of India.
6. I asked her when she gets time to play.
   I asked her, "When do you get time to play " 
7. She also added that board exams are very important, and that you only get one chance.
   She also added, "Board exams are very important and you only get one chance.
8. I wonder whether they have time to play with friends.
   I wonder, "Do they have time to play with friends.
9. Yamuna informed that as neither the train nor the bus services had resumed so far, she and her colleagues would be leaving the office on foot.
   Yamuna informed, "As neither the train nor the bus services have resumed so far, I and my colleagues will be leaving the office on foot.
10. Amelia Earheart once said that you haven't seen a tree if you haven't seen its shadow from the sky.
    Amelia Earheart once said, "You haven't seen a tree, if you haven't seen its shadow from the sky.
11. She concludes that the grown-ups reading Potter are childish people.
    She concludes, "The grown-ups who read Potter are childish people.
12. A few neighbours asked my mother why she was taking so much pain to beautify a government house.
    A few neighbours asked my mother, "Why are you taking so much pain to beautify a government house?"
13. I asked her once if she saw darkness.
    I asked her once, "Did you see darkness?"

Turn the following sentences into indirect speech.

1. ‘What do you want?’ she asked him.
2. ‘Are you coming with us?’ he asked me.
3. He asked, ‘When do you intend to make the payment?’
4. ‘Do you come from China?’ said the prince to the girl.
5. The poor man exclaimed, ‘Will none of you help me?’
6. ‘Which way should I go?’ asked the little girl.
7. Alladin said to the magician, ‘What have I done to deserve so severe a punishment?’
8. ‘Don’t you know the way home?’ I said to her.
9. ‘Do you write a good hand?’ the teacher said to the student.
10. ‘Have you anything to say on behalf of the accused?’ said the judge finally.
11. ‘Have you anything to tell me, little bird?’ asked Ulysses.
12. ‘Who are you, sir, and what do you want?’ they asked.
13. The king was impressed with the magician and asked, ‘What can I do for you?’
14. She asked, ‘What is it that makes you stronger and braver than other men?’
15. ‘Can you solve this problem?’ he asked me.

Answers

1. She asked him what he wanted.
2. He asked me if I was coming/goi ng with them.
3. He enquired when I/he/she intended to make the payment.
4. The prince asked the girl if she came from China.
5. The poor man exclaimed whether none of them would help him.
6. The little girl asked which way she should go.
7. Alladin asked the magician what he had done to deserve so severe a punishment.
8. I asked her whether she did not know the way home.
9. The teacher asked the student if he/she wrote a good hand.
10. The judge finally asked whether he/she had anything to say on behalf of the accused.
11. Ulysses asked the little bird whether it had anything to tell him.
12. They asked who he was and what he wanted.
13. The king was impressed with the magician and asked what he could do for him.
14. She asked him what was it that made him stronger and braver than other men.
15. He asked me if I could solve that problem.