

జనరల్ ఇంగ్లీష్

DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

- ★ There are two ways of reporting the words spoken by a person – Direct Speech and Indirect Speech.
- ★ Direct Speech refers to the exact words of the speaker. Comma is placed before the remark and the actual words of the speaker are placed between inverted commas or quotation marks.
e.g.: Khyati said, "I am learning music".
- ★ In Indirect Speech or Reported Speech we report the speaker's words in our own words, making certain changes without altering the meaning. Inverted commas are removed in Indirect Speech.
e.g.: Khyati said that she was learning music.

Rules for Changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech:

1. Reporting Verb

The reporting verbs 'say', 'says', and 'said' remain unchanged when they are not followed by 'to + object'. But 'say to', 'says to', and 'said to' become 'tell', 'tells' and 'told' respectively. The conjunction 'that' is used.

Direct: Vivekananda says. "Weakness is sin"

Indirect: Vivekananda says that weakness is sin.

Direct: He said to me, "I am busy"

Indirect: He told me that he was busy.

2. Change of Tenses

- ★ Tenses do not change in the Indirect Speech if the reporting verb is in the Present or Future Tense.

Direct: Narendra Modi says, "There is no place for intolerance in India".

Indirect: Narendra Modi says that there is no place for intolerance in India.

Direct: Jatin has said, "I will vote in the GHMC elections".

Indirect: Jatin has said that he will vote in the GHMC elections.

Direct: She will say, "I am innocent".

Indirect: She will say that she is innocent.

- ★ When the reporting verb is in the Past Tense, the tense of the Reported Speech normally changes in the following way:

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Simple Present	Simple Past
Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Present Perfect	Past Perfect
Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
Simple Past	Simple Past/ Past Perfect
Past Continuous	Past Continuous / Past Perfect Continuous
Future	Conditional

Direct: Abhi said, "I like pop music".

Indirect: Abhi said that he liked pop music.

Direct: Himanish said to me, "I am watching Bahubali on TV".

Indirect: Himanish told me that he was watching Bahubali on TV.

Direct: The boy said to his mother, "I have got the first prize".

Indirect: The boy told his mother that he had got the first prize.

Direct: She said, "It has been raining for two hours".

Indirect: She said that it had been raining for two hours.

Direct: He said, "I wrote a poem".

Indirect: He said that he had written a poem.

Direct: Varun said, "I was playing cricket".

Indirect: Varun said that he had been playing cricket.

Direct: Sohini said, "Sahas will do it".

Indirect: Sohini said that Sahas would do it.

- ★ If the Direct Speech expresses a universal truth or an unchanged situation or a habitual action, the Tense of the Reported Speech remains unchanged.

Direct: Our teacher said, "The earth is round".

Indirect: Our teacher said that the earth is round.

3. Pronouns

All First Pronouns (I, we, my, our) are changed according to the speaker. Second Person Pronouns (you, your) are changed according to the listener. Third Person Pronouns (he, she, his, him, her) remain unchanged.

Direct: She said to me, "You are giving him my books".

Indirect: She told me that I was giving him her books.

4. Words expressing nearness in time or place:

Words expressing nearness in time or place are generally changed to words expressing distance in Indirect Speech.

Direct: Lasya said to Harshita, "I will do it tomorrow".

Indirect: Lasya told Harshita that she would do it the next day.

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
this/ it	that
these	those
now	then
here	there
hither	thither
thus	so
hence	thence
ago	before
come	go
today	that day
tomorrow	the next day
the day after tomorrow	in two days
yesterday	the previous day, the day before
the day before yester day	two days before
last night	the previous night or the night before
last week/ month/ year	the previous week/ month/ year
next week/ month/ year	the following week/ month/ year

QUESTIONS

- All the direct questions are changed into statements.
- In reporting questions the Indirect Speech is introduced by verbs like asked, inquired, questioned etc.
- When 'do', 'does' or 'did' are used as auxiliary verbs in direct speech, they are omitted in indirect speech.

Direct: Tanmayi said to me, "Do you like it?"

Indirect: Tanmayi asked me if I liked it.

- If or whether is used as conjunction with Yes/ No questions.

Direct: John said to Sophia, "Are you upset?"

Indirect: John asked Sophia if she was upset.

Direct: Ali said to Razia, "Do you like it or not?"

Indirect: Ali asked Razia whether she liked it or not.

- ★ 'Whether' is generally used when an alternative is provided.

- The interrogative word remains unchanged in W-H questions.

Direct: She said to him, "What is your opinion?"

Indirect: She asked him what his opinion was.

Commands/ Requests/ Advice

- a) Reporting verb is often changed into requested, commanded, ordered, suggested, advised etc.
- b) Reporting verb is followed by 'to + V1' (base form of the verb).
- c) Words like please are omitted.

Direct: My friend said to me, "Close the window, please."

Indirect: My friend requested me to close the window.

Exclamations / Wishes

- a) 'That' is used as conjunction.
- b) Exclaimed, wondered, congratulated, wished etc. are used as reporting verbs.
- c) The interjections are converted into the following expressions:

Interjection	Equivalent Expression
Hurrah!	exclaimed with joy
Oh!	exclaimed with regret
Alas!	exclaimed with sorrow
Wow!	exclaimed with wonder
Pooh!	exclaimed with contempt

- d) 'Very' is used with an adjective and 'great' is used with a noun.
- e) Exclamatory mark is omitted.

Direct: He said, "Alas! My grandfather is no more."

Indirect: He exclaimed with sorrow that his grandfather was no more.

Direct: She said, "What a beautiful scenery it is!"

Indirect: She exclaimed that it was a very beautiful scenery.

Direct: He said, "Wow! What an idea!".

Indirect: He exclaimed with wonder that it was a great idea.

PRACTICE TEST

Choose the correct Indirect Speech of the following sentences.

- 1. "Do you want to come with me or not?" she said to him.
 - 1) She told him that she wanted to come with him or not.
 - 2) She asked him whether he wanted to go with her or not.
 - 3) She asked him if she wanted to come with him or not.
 - 4) She asked him if he wants to go with her or not.
- 2. "I have seen this film twice", he said.
 - 1) He said that he had seen that film twice.
 - 2) He told that he has been seen that film twice.
 - 3) He said that he has seen that film twice.
 - 4) He said that he had seen this film twice.

3. She said to me, "I will do it now."
 - 1) She said to me that she will do it then.
 - 2) She told me that she would do it now.
 - 3) She told me that she would do it then.
 - 4) She told me that she is doing it then.
4. "What are you doing?" Rishita said to me.
 - 1) Rishita asked what you are doing.
 - 2) Rishita asked me what I was doing.
 - 3) Rishita asked me what she was doing.
 - 4) Rishita asked me what I am doing.
5. I said to her, "Is your father in?"
 - 1) I told her that her father was in.
 - 2) I asked her if her father was in.
 - 3) I enquired her if her father is in.
 - 4) I asked her father to be in.
6. My father said to me, "Do not lose your heart."
 - 1) My father advised me not to lose my heart.
 - 2) My father ordered me not to lose my heart.
 - 3) My father encouraged me to lose my heart.
 - 4) My father requested me not to lose my heart.
7. "Can you solve the sum?" said the teacher. "Yes" said I.
 - 1) The teacher asked me whether she could solve the sum and I replied that I could.
 - 2) The teacher asked me if I could solve the sum and I replied that he could.
 - 3) The teacher questioned me that I can solve the sum and I replied that I could.
 - 4) The teacher asked me if I could solve the sum and I replied that I could.
8. "Have you done your home work or not?" said the teacher to the student.
 - 1) The teacher told the student that he had not done his home work.
 - 2) The teacher asked the student if he has done this home work or not.
 - 3) The teacher asked the student whether he had done his home work or not.
 - 4) The teacher said to the student whether he had done his home work.
9. Dinesh said to Ramesh, "Girls were singing a song."
 - 1) Dinesh told Ramesh that girls had been singing a song.
 - 2) Dinesh told to Ramesh that girls had sung a song.
 - 3) Dinesh told Ramesh that girls would be singing a song.
 - 4) Dinesh was telling Ramesh that girls sang a song.

10. Rajani said to me, "I shall sing a song."

- 1) Rajani told me that he will sing a song.
- 2) Rajani told me that I would sing a song.
- 3) Rajani told me that she would sing a song.
- 4) Rajani told him that I would sing a song.

ANSWERS

1-2; 2-1; 3-3; 4-2; 5-2; 6-1; 7-4; 8-3; 9-1; 10-3.

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