



DIRECT AND INDIRECT NARRATION

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REPORTING SPEECH

There are two ways of reporting what somebody says;

- Direct speech
- Indirect (or reported) speech.

A SPEAKER'S WORD CAN BE REPORTED IN TWO WAYS:

Direct Speech– Exact words of speaker

e.g. The teacher said to Ali, “You have a bright future.”

Indirect Speech– What the speaker has said without using the exact words

E.g. The teacher told Ali that he had a bright future.

PUNCTUATING DIRECT SPEECH.

When using direct speech in your writing you need to use the correct punctuation.

- The exact words spoken must be enclosed in speech marks.
- The first word of the speech must begin with a capital letter.
- The words in the speech marks must be separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma.
- You must use a new line when a new speaker begins to speak.

WHAT CHANGES DID YOU NOTICE?

- Omission of commas
- Use of 'that'
- Change of pronoun
- Change of tense
- Change of adverb

CHANGE OF TENSE

- If the reporting verb in the direct speech statement is in present tense or future tense, then it remains same in indirect speech too i.e. no change in tense.

E.g. My friends say, “He is very handsome.”

My friends say that He is very handsome.

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My Granny will say, “You need to eat well.”

My Granny will say that you need to eat well.

CHANGE OF TENSE

If the reporting verb is in the past tense in the direct speech statement ,then the verbs within the inverted commas will undergo corresponding changes in the indirect speech statements.

Simple Present becomes Simple Past:

The girl said, “The flower is pretty.”

The girl said that the flower was pretty.

Present Continuous becomes Past Continuous:

The old man said, “The rain is falling very heavily.”

The old man said that the rain was falling very heavily.

CHANGE OF PRONOUN

Personal Pronouns change according to :

SON formula

1st person = Subject

2nd person = Object

3rd person = No change

- If subject of the quoted words is in 1st person then it will change according to the subject of the reported verb

e.g. – He said to me, “I like coffee.”

He told that he liked coffee.

- If subject of the quoted words is in 2nd person then it will change according to the object of reporting verb

e.g. – He said to me, “You look happy.”

He told that I looked happy.

- If the subject of the quoted words is in 3rd person then there will be no change.

e.g. – He said to me, “She has already left.”

He told that she had already left.

CHANGE OF ADVERBS

Change in Adverbs of Time and Place:

This	That
Today	That day
These	Those
Now	Then
Here	There
Tomorrow	The following/ next day
Yesterday	The previous day/the last day
Tonight	That night

ASSERTIVE SENTENCES

- There is an object after reporting verb, change 'say to' into 'tell', 'says to' into 'tell', 'said to' into 'told'. If there is no object after the reporting verb, do not change the verb.

Remember 'to' is not used after tell(s) or told.

- Remove comma and inverted commas, and use 'that' in place of the opening quote.
- If object of the reporting verb is found in reported speech instead of reporting verb itself, make it object of the reporting verb.
- *Change pronouns* and tense of the verb of reported speech according to the rules.

ASSERTIVE SENTENCES

For Example:

Direct: Rahim said, “I had done my work”.

Indirect: Rahim said that he had done his work.

Direct: Rahim said to me, “I cannot help you in your work.”

Indirect: Rahim told me that he could not help me in my work.

Direct: The thief said, ‘I am innocent.

Indirect: The thief said that he was innocent.

IMPERATIVE SENTENCES

- In Imperative sentences, reporting verb is changed into ask/advice/request.
Tense remains the same.
The verb is put in the infinitive 'to'.
- **I said, “ Take your seat.”**
I asked him to take his seat.
- **He said, “ Give me some food, please.”**
He requested me to give him some food.

INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

- A Question is changed into a Statement.
- In a direct 'Yes/No' question, reporting verb is changed into ask/inquire and 'if/whether' is used.
 - i. **She said, "Are you writing a poem.?"**
She asked me whether I was writing a poem.
 - i. **I said to him, "Do you know when she will go home?"**
I asked him if he knew when she would go home.

EXCLAMATORY SENTENCES

- In Exclamatory Sentences, reporting verb is changed into exclaimed with joy/sorrow/ anger/surprise, etc. That is used.
- **He said, “ How beautiful a place!”**
He exclaimed with joy that it was a very beautiful place.
- **Rohan said, “ Alas! His father died.”**
Rohan exclaimed with sorrow that his father had died.

OPTATIVE SENTENCES

- For making Indirect Speech of Optative Sentence, 'Said' of Reporting Verb is changed according to the Optative Word' of Reporting Speech. A list of such words is given below.

Good Morning!	Wished
Good Evening!	Wished
Good Afternoon!	Wished
Good Night!	Bade
Good Bye!	Bade
Farewell!	Bade
Would that...!	Wished
O that...!	Wished

OPTATIVE SENTENCES

For Example:

a) Direct : He said to me, "May you live long !"

Indirect : He **wished** that I **might** live long.

b) Direct : She said, "May your enemy go to hell !"

Indirect : She **cursed** that my enemy **might** go to hell.

c) Direct : Seema said to me, "May God bless you with children !"

Indirect : Seema **prayed** that God **might** bless me with children.

MISCELLANEOUS SENTENCES

In few sentences, emotions are very important. While converting their Direct Speech to Indirect Speech, word of the same emotion is used in place of 'Said To'.

For Example:

Ali said to Talha, "May you live long!"

Ali prayed that Talha might live long.

She said to Raza , "May God bless you with a son!"

She prayed that God might bless raza with a son.

A purple rectangular tag with a hole on the left side is placed on a light brown, textured wooden surface. A thin, light-colored string is looped around the hole. To the right of the tag is a single white daisy flower with a yellow center. In the background, two more daisy flowers are visible, slightly out of focus.

Thank
you!