



DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

Unit _I

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DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

- We may report the words of a speaker in two ways;
- We may quote his actual words. This is called **Direct speech**.
- We may report what he said without quoting his exact words. This is called **Indirect speech**
 - Rama said, 'I am very busy now'.
 - Rama said that he was very busy then.
- In direct speech we use inverted commas to mark off the exact words of the speaker. In indirect speech we do not.



- While changing the above direct speech to indirect speech certain changes have been made,
 - ✓ We have used the conjunction **that** before the indirect statement
 - ✓ The pronoun **I** is changed to **he** (The Pronoun is changed in Person)
 - ✓ The verb **am** is changed to **was** (Present tense is changed to past)
 - ✓ The adverb **now** is changed to **then**.
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RULES FOR CHANGING DIRECT SPEECH INTO INDIRECT

- When the reporting verb is in the **Past Tense**, all **Present Tense** of the direct are changed into the corresponding **Past Tense**

A simple present becomes a simple past.

- ✓ **Direct:** He said, 'I am unwell'
- ✓ **Indirect:** He said(that) he was unwell.

A present continuous becomes a past continuous .

- ✓ **Direct:** He said, 'My master is writing letters'
- ✓ **Indirect:** He said(that) his master was writing letters.



○ A **Present Perfect** becomes a **Past Perfect**

○ **Direct:** He said, 'I have passed the examination'.

○ **Indirect:** He said (that) he had passed the examination.

Note- The **shall** of the Future Tense is changed into **should**

The **will** of the Future Tense is changed into **would or should**.

As a rule, the Simple past in the Direct becomes the Past perfect in the indirect.

Direct- He said, 'The horse died in the night'.

Indirect- He said that the horse had died in the night.



- **Direct** –‘I know her address’, said Gopi.
- **Indirect** –Gopi said he knows/knew her address.

- **Direct**- The teacher said, ‘The earth goes round the sun’.
- **Indirect**- The teacher said the earth goes/went round the sun.

- **Direct**- ‘German is easy to learn’, she said.
- **Indirect**- She said German is/was easy to learn.

The past tense is often used when it is uncertain if the statement is true or when we are reporting objectively.



- The tenses may not change if the statement is still relevant or it is a universal truth.
- **Direct:** ‘I know her address’, said Gopi.
- **Indirect:** Gopi said he knows/knew her address.
- **Direct:** The teacher said, ‘The earth goes round the sun’.
- **Indirect:** The teacher said the earth goes/went round the sun.
- **Direct:** ‘German is easy to learn’, she said.
- **Indirect:** She said German is/was easy to learn.

- The past tense is often used when it is uncertain if the statement is true or when we are reporting objectively.



MODIFICATION OF TENSES

(IN THE TRANSFORMATION –DIRECT TO INDIRECT SPEECH)

- The tense form of the reported verb is changed when the reporting verb is only in the past tense.

Reported verb in the direct speech	Reported verb in the indirect speech
Simple present	Simple past
Present continuous	Past continuous
Present perfect	Past perfect
Simple past	Past perfect
Past continuous	Past perfect continuous



- **D:** Rani said, “I am house wife”.
- **ID:** Rani told that she was a house wife.

- **D:** Siva said “My wife is working as an office manager”.
- **ID:** Siva told that his wife was working as an office manager.

- **D:**Geetha said, “I have passed IAS exam”.
- **ID:** Geetha told that she had passed IAS exam.

- **D:** Hema said, ‘ I joined the M.Phil course”.
- **ID:**Hema told that she had joined the M.Phil course.

- **D:** Arun said ‘mummy, I was sleeping”.
- **ID:**Arun told his mother that he had been sleeping.



- In the transformation, the modal auxiliaries are changed as :
- Note: the modal auxiliary ‘would’ is used only to express futurity and ‘should’ is used only when there is a queried future

Will	Would
Can	Could
May	Might
Shall	Would

D: Pradeepa said, “we shall come there”.

ID: Pradeepa told that they would come there.

D: Rahul said, “ shall I go tomorrow”.

ID: Rahul said whether she should go the next day.



MODIFICATION OF ADVERBIALS & DEMONSTRATIVES

- Words expressing nearness in time or place are generally changed into words expressing distance.

ago	before
here	there
today	that day
now	then
tomorrow	the next day, the day after
yesterday	the previous day, the day before
thus	so
last night	the night before
last week	the previous week
The next week	The following week



- The demonstrative pronouns and demonstrative adjectives are also changed in the Reported speech as follows:

this	that
these	those
this boy	that boy
these dogs	those dogs

D: Sathi said, “ My sister will come here today.

ID: Sathi said that her sister would come there that day.

D: Vignesh said, “ I’II go to Tanjore the next week.

ID: Vignesh told that he would go to Tanjore the following week.

D: Rahim said, “ I want this pen now”.

ID: Rahim told that he wanted that pen then.



REPORTING VERBS

- Depending on the mood or meaning of the words reported, we use different appropriate reporting verbs in the reported speech.

For statement	Said, told
For interrogatives	
Wh questions	enquired
Yes/No questions	Asked, whether , asked if
For commands	Odered, told, asked
For requests	Requested, asked
For exclamatory	Exclaimed, wondered

Some other verbs used are:- wished, greeted, advised, warned, threatened, agreed, refused, praised, blamed, blessed, cursed, complained.



QUESTIONS

- In reporting questions the indirect speech is introduced by some such verbs as asked, inquired, etc. When the question is not introduced by an interrogative word, the reporting verb is followed by whether or if.
- **D:** He said to me, “what are you doing?”
- **ID:** He asked me what I was doing.

- **D:** “Where do you live”? Asked the stranger.
- **ID:** The stranger enquired where I lived.

- **D:** The policeman said to us, ‘where are you going?’
- **ID:** The policeman enquired where we were going.



- **D:** he said, ‘will you, listen to such a man.
- **ID:** he asked them whether they would listen to such a man. (Or) would they, he asked, listen to such a man?

- **D:** ‘Do you suppose you know better than your own father?’ jeered his angry mother.
- **ID:** His angry mother jeered and asked whether he supposed that he knew better than his own father.

- **D:** My uncle said to me, “ what are you doing?
- **ID:** My uncle enquired me what I was doing.



- In reporting commands and requests, the Indirect Speech is introduced by some verb expressing command or request, and the imperative mood is changed into the Infinitive.
- **D:** Ram said to Arjun, ‘Go away.’
- **ID:** Rama ordered Arjun to go away.
- **D:** He said to him, ‘Please Wait here till I return.’
- **ID:** He requested him to wait there till he returned.
- **D:** ‘Call the first witness’, said the judge.
- **ID:** The judge commanded them to call the first witness.



- **D:** He shouted, ‘Let me go’.
- **ID:** He shouted to them to let him go.

- **D:** He said, ‘be quiet and listen to my words’.
- **ID:** He urged them to be quiet and listen to his words.

- **D:** The officer said to the peon, “ post these letters”.
- **ID:** The officer ordered the peon to post those letters.

- **D:** Mr. Moorthy said to his son, ‘Wash your clothes’.
- **ID:** Mr.Moorthy asked his son to wash his clothes



- **D:** Mani said, ‘ Father, give me fifty rupees please’.
- **ID:** Mani requested his father to give him fifty rupees.

- **D:** The HM said to the peon, ‘Ring the bell’.
- **ID:** The HM ordered the peon to ring the bell.

- **D:** Mr.Rajan said, to his grand child, Princy, ‘Wish you best of luck’.
- **ID:** Mr.Rajan wished his grandchild, Princy, best of luck.



EXCLAMATIONS AND WISHES

- In reporting exclamations and wishes in the Indirect Speech is introduced by some verb expressing exclamation or wish.
- **D:** He said, 'Alas! I am undone'.
- **ID:** He exclaimed sadly that he was undone.
- **D:** Alice said, 'How clever I am!'
- **ID:** Alice exclaimed that she was very clever.
- **D:** He said, 'Bravo! You have done well'.
- **ID:** He applauded him, saying that he had done well.



- **D:** ‘So help me, haven!; ‘I will never steal again’.
- **ID:** He called upon Haven to witness his resolve never to steal again.

- **D:** Ravi said, ‘What a great man Suresh is!’
- **ID:** Ravi exclaimed that Suresh was a very great man.

- **D:** Selvi said, ‘How beautiful the rose is!’
- **ID:** Selvi exclaimed that the rose was very beautiful.

- **D:** ‘Happy birthday, my dear Deepa!’, said her grandfather.
- **ID:** Deepa’s grand father wished her a happy birthday.



THANK YOU

