

Narration / Direct and Indirect Speech

The art of reporting the words of a speaker is called Narration.

There are two main ways of reporting the words of a speaker.

1. Direct Speech
2. Indirect Speech

Direct Speech

In this form, the actual words of the speaker are put in quotes “”.

Ex:-

1. Rama said, “I am very busy now.”
2. In the above example the Speaker i.e
3. **Rama** is known as **Reporter**,
4. **said** is known as **Reporting verb** and
5. **“I am very busy now.”** is known as **Reported Speech**.

Indirect Speech

In this form, the actual words of the speaker are transformed and said/written in a simple manner.

Ex:-

- Rama said that he was very busy then.

Basic rules to convert a Direct Speech to Indirect Speech.

There are five basic things that have to be changed while converting a Direct speech to an Indirect speech.

1. To change the reporting verb according to the reported speech.
2. To remove the inverted comma’s from the direct speech and replace them with an appropriate conjunction.
3. To change the pronoun of reported speech accordingly.
4. Change the adverbs of the Direct Speech.

Direct - Rajiv said to me," I shall go to the picture today" Indirect- Rajiv told me that he would go to the picture that day.

In the above example

Reporting verb said to is changed into told.
Inverted Commas are replaced by the conjunction that
Reported speech's pronoun I is changed into He.
Reported speech's verb shall go is changed into would go.
As another change today is changed with the word that day.

Pronouns are changed according to a rule designated as SON where

- S stands for Subject
 - O stands for Object
 - N stands for No change.
1. First person changes to subject of Reporting Verb
 2. Second person changes to Object of Reporting Verb
 3. There is no change if it is a Third person.

Rule No 1.

1st Person pronoun of Reported speech is changed according to the Subject of Reporting verb.

Direct: She says, "I am in tenth class."
Indirect: She says that she is in tenth class.

Direct: I say, "I am an honest man."
Indirect: I say that I am an honest man.

Rule No 2.

2nd Person pronoun of Reported speech is changed according to Object of Reporting verb.

Direct: She says to me, "you have done your work"
Indirect: She tells me that I have done my work.

Direct: She says to her, "You have done your work"
Indirect: She tells her that she has done her work.

Direct: I say to them, "you have done your work."
Indirect: I tell them that they have done their work.

Rule No 3.

3rd Person Pronoun of Reported speech is not changed.

Direct: He says, "He does not work hard"

Indirect: He says that he does not work hard.

Direct: Everybody says, "They have spoken the truth"

Indirect: Everybody says that they have spoken the truth.

Rules of change of verb or Tense

Rule No.1

If reporting verb is given in Present or Future tense then there will be no change in the verb or tense of Reported speech

Direct: The teacher says, "Gayatri performs on the stage"

Indirect: The teacher says that Gayatri performs on the stage.

Direct: The teacher is saying, "Gayatri performs on the stage"

Indirect: The teacher is saying that Gayatri performs on the stage.

Direct: The teacher will say, "Gayatri is performing on the stage"

Indirect: The teacher will say that Gayatri is performing on the stage.

Rule No.2

If reporting verb is given in Past tense then the tense of the verb of Reported Speech will change into corresponding Past tense.

Direct: The teacher said, "I am suffering from fever."

Indirect: The teacher said that she was suffering from fever.

Direct: She said to me, "I took the breakfast in the morning".

Indirect: She told me that she had taken the breakfast in the morning.

Corresponding Changes to past form in an indirect speech from the verb in Reported speech.

1. **Simple present** changes to **Simple Past**
2. **Present Continuous** changes to **Past Continuous**
3. **Present Perfect** changes to **Past Perfect**
4. **Present Perfect Continuous** changes to **Past Perfect Continuous**
5. **Simple Past** changes to **Past Perfect**
6. **Past Continuous** changes to **Past Perfect Continuous**
7. **In Future Tense will/Shall** changes to **would**
8. **Can** changes to **Could**
9. **May** changes to **Might**

Some of the exceptional cases of Rule 2

Exception 1:

If Reporting speech has Universal Truth or Habitual fact then there is no change in the Tense.

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

Indirect: Our teacher said that the earth is round.(Universal Truth)

Direct: Rajiv said to me, "He plays with right hand"

Indirect: Rajiv told me that he plays with the right hand.(Habitual fact)

Exception 2:

If reporting speech has Past Historical Fact then there is no change in the Tense.

Direct: Our teacher said, "Asoka left war after the conquest of Kalinga".

Indirect: Our teacher said that Asoka left war after the conquest of Kalinga.

Exception 3:

If Reporting speech has two actions to be happening at a time when there is no change in the Tense.

Direct: She said "My wife was making lunch when I was studying"

Indirect: She said that her wife was making lunch when she was studying.

Exception 4:

If Reporting speech has some Imagined Condition then there is no change in the Tense.

Direct: She said, "If I were rich, I would help him."

Indirect: She said that if she were rich she would help her.

Exception 5:

If Reporting speech contains had 3rd form, to-infinitive and would, could, should, must, might, ought to etc. then there is no change in the Tense.

Direct: She said to me, "You should obey your elders."

Indirect: She told me that I should obey my elders.

Change the sentences to reported speech!

1. He said to me, "Where have you been?"

He asked me

2. My dad said, "Go to your room at once."

My dad ordered me

3. Jimmy said, "I own a brand-new sports car."

Jimmy said that

4. John said, "I am writing a new novel".

John said

5. My mother said, "Close you eye and open your hands."

My mother told me

6. I said to the host, "Can I have another piece of cake?"

I asked the host

7. The teacher wondered, "Will she be safe if she goes alone?"

The teacher wondered

8. She told me, "He has never written to me before."

She explained that

9. The shop assistant asked me, "What size are your shoes?"

The shop assistant wanted to know

10. The administrator warned us, "Don't walk on the grass".

The administrator warned us

11. My friend said to me, "Go to the doctor."

My friend advised me

12. The hotel manager said, "Dinner is served between 7 and 9.

The hotel manager said that

13. My little brother said, "I didn't steal the money."

My little brother said that

14. Marth said, "Let's go to the movies."

Martha suggested

15. The headmaster said, "All students are taking part in the project."

The headmaster said that

16. Jamie said, "I'll never forget your birthday again."

Jamie said that
