

Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration

Direct speech shows a person's exact words. Quotation marks ("...") are a sign that the words are the exact words that a person used.

Example

Aavya asked, "Where are you going?"

Paridhi replied, "I'm going home."

<p>Direct Speech In direct speech, we convey the message of the speaker in his own actual words without any change to another person.</p>	<p>Indirect Speech In indirect speech, we convey the message of the speaker in our own words to another person.</p>
---	---

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

Verb tenses

When you report what someone said in the past, you usually shift back a verb tense from the tense the speaker used. We will go through some of the examples i.e.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
I've lost my umbrella.	He said (that) he had lost his umbrella.
"I'm not playing football."	"He said that he wasn't playing football."
I bought a car.	She said (that) she had bought a car.
I'll see you later.	She said (that) she would see me later.
Jane: "I don't like living here." (Jane is referring to herself)	Jane said (that) she didn't like living here. (The pronoun she refers to Jane)
"I like this car."	He said (that) he liked that car.
"I went to Tokyo last week."	She said (that) she'd been to Tokyo the week before.
Jim says to you: "I don't feel well." "I can't drive." "My parents have gone on holiday." "I'm going out now so you will have to wait until I get back." "I'll help you."	Later, you tell your friend what Jim said: Jim said (that) he didn't feel well. He said (that) he couldn't drive. He said (that) his parents had gone on holiday. He said (that) he was going out now so I would have to wait until he got back. He said that he would help me.
I should go to the park.	He told me he should go to the park.
I must study at the weekend.	She said (that) she must study at the weekend OR She said she had to study at the weekend
I might be late	She said (that) she might be late
John said, 'I am very busy now.'	John said that he was very busy then.

**Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration**

Change of Tense and Modal Verbs

Direct speech	Indirect speech
Present Simple	Past Simple
Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Present perfect	Past perfect
Past Simple	Past perfect
Past Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
Past perfect	No change
Future (shall, will, will be)	Secondary future (should, would, would be)
Future perfect (will have)	Secondary future perfect (would have)
Will have been	Would have been
Modal Verbs	Modal Verbs
Can	Could
May	Might
Have to	Had to
Must	Must, had to
Might	Might
Should	Should
Here	There
This	That
Bring	Take
Come	Go

Pronouns, possessives and demonstratives

The changes required in pronouns, possessive adjectives and demonstratives are as following

Direct speech	Indirect speech
I	he, she
me	him, her
my	his, her, the
mine	his, hers
we	they
us	them
our	their, the
ours	theirs
you	they, them
your	their, the

Adverbs and adjectives

Adverbs and adjectives denoting time and place may have to be changed as follows:

Changes in time and place

Direct speech	Indirect speech
this	that

Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration

here	there
now, at the present time	then, at the time
present	existing, current
today	that day, at the time
tomorrow	the day after, the next day
yesterday	the day before, the previous day
ago	before, earlier, previously
Next week	The following week/ The next week/ The week after
Tonight	That night
Now	Then

Key Points of Direct to Indirect Speech- "Reported Speech"

Direct to indirect speech is transformation.

1. We do not change the "Meaning"
2. We do not change the "Statement".
3. We do not interpret our own thinking/perception.
4. Yes, we transform "statement"; "not the meaning".
5. Put "that" between the reporting and reported speeches.(it is optional to put "that" between the reporting and reported speech)

Basically we change three things

1. Change of Time
2. Change of Tense
3. Change of Person

Reporting verbs

Add	Comment	Explain	Offer	State
Admit	Complain	Hint	Order	Suggest
Advise	Confess	Inform	Point out	Threaten
Agree	Confirm	Insist	Promise	Warn
Announce	Continue	Interrupt	Protest	Wonder
Maintain	Repeat			

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"I am hungry."	She stated that she was hungry.
"I saw them leave."	Aidan said that he had seen them leave.
"Where have they gone?"	Felicite wondered where they had gone.
"Will you help me?"	I asked Silvio if they would help me.
"I can't remember your name."	Soungyoung said she couldn't remember my name.

Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration

Question

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"Do they live here?"	You asked me if they lived here.
Do you love me?	He asked me if I loved him.
Do you like chocolate?	She asked me if I liked chocolate.
Are you living here?	She asked me if I was living here.
Will I see you later?	He asked if he would see me later.
"Do you speak English?"	He asked me whether/if I spoke English.
"Do you want me to come?"	I asked him if he wanted me to come.
"Have you fed the dog?"	She asked me whether I had fed the dog.

When we report questions, the subject comes before the verb.

We report yes/no questions with if or whether.

When we report questions with who, what or which + to be + object, the verb be can come before or after the object.

The tense changes are the same, and we keep the question word.

We need to change the grammar to a normal positive sentence.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"Where are you going?"	He asked me where I was going.
What are you doing?	She asked me what I was doing.
"Why is he shouting?"	He asked me why he was shouting.
"What do you want?"	She asked me what I wanted.
"Who doesn't like cheese?"	She asked me who didn't like cheese.
Where do you live?	She asked me where I lived.
"Where do they live?"	You asked me where they lived.
"Why" don't you speak English?"	He asked me why I didn't speak English.
"When are you leaving?"	He asked us when we were leaving.
"How will they get here?"	She asked me how they would get here.
"Who is the champion?"	She asked me who the champion was / She asked me who was the champion.
"What is your favourite colour?"	She asked me what my favourite colour was / She asked me what was my favourite colour.

Questions

Two Types of Questions

1. Questions: - that have a yes/no response

Points to be noted:- a yes/no question, we use 'if' / whether

2. Questions: - begin with a question word- 'what', 'where', 'who' 'when',

Points to be noted: - change the interrogative form to the affirmative form sentence begin with Question word

Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration

Reporting Orders and Reported Requests

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"Call me back later."	You told me to call you back later.
"Have a seat."	He told me to have a seat.
"Don't do that!"	She told us not to do that.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the window, please. • Could you close the window please? • Would you mind closing the window please? 	She asked me to close the window.
Please help me.	She asked me to help her.
Please don't smoke.	She asked me not to smoke.
Could you bring my book tonight?	She asked me to bring her book that night.
Could you pass the milk, please?	She asked me to pass the milk.
Would you mind coming early tomorrow?	She asked me to come early the next day.
The man said, "Please, bring me a chair."	The man requested to bring him a chair.
Mother said, "Listen to your elders."	Mother advised me to listen to my elders.
To report a negative request, use 'not':	To report a negative request, use 'not':
Please don't be late.	She asked us not to be late.
When someone orders	Use 'tell' instead of 'ask':
Sit down!	She told me to sit down.
Go to bed!	He told the child to go to bed.
Be on time!	He told me to be on time.
Don't worry!	He told her not to worry.
Don't smoke!	He told us not to smoke.

All of these requests mean the same thing, so we don't need to report every word when we tell another person about it. We simply use 'ask me + to + infinitive':

For affirmative use to + infinitive (without to)
--

For negative requests, use not to + infinitive (without to).
--

When you make a request, you normally use words like 'can', 'could', or 'will'. For example:

To report a request, we use the verb 'to ask' and the infinitive form of the verb. For example:

Modal verbs could, might, would, should, ought, had better usually do not change in reported speech. Modal Verbs:-No Change in Verb Tenses in Reported Speech

"I should go to the dentist."	He said that he should go to the dentist.
-------------------------------	---

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"Could you call me back later?"	You asked me to call you back later.
"Will you have a seat?"	He asked me to have a seat.
"Can you not do that please?"	She asked us not to do that

Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration

If we report something which is still true, it is not necessary to change the verb.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"My car is bigger than yours."	He said his car is/was bigger than mine.

When we are reporting past tenses and we see the events from the same viewpoint as the original speaker, it is not necessary to change the tense.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"The earthquake happened at half past seven."	The radio said that the earthquake happened at half past seven.

Exclamation!

Exclamation usually become statement in Indirect Speech.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
He Said, "What a beautiful scene!"	He exclaimed that it was a beautiful scene.
"Good"! he exclaimed	He gave an exclamation of pleasure/satisfaction.
Ah! I have finished the assignment at last!" She said.	With an exclamation of relief she said that she had finished the assignment at last.

Thus! You may use giving with -/an exclamation of delight/disgust/horror/relief/surprise/etc. depending on the meaning of direct exclamation.

Mood of Sentence in Direct Speech	Reporting verb in indirect verb
sorrow	Exclaimed with sorrow/ grief/ exclaimed sorrowfully or cried out
happiness	exclaimed with joy/ delight/ exclaimed joyfully
surprise	exclaimed with surprise/ wonder/ astonishment"
appreciation	applauded

Let's/Let him

He said, " Let's have our lunch before starting the journey"	He suggested that they should have their lunch before starting the journey. He suggested having their lunch ----- -
He said, " I cannot issue the certificate. Let the secretary do it".	He said that he could not issue the certificate and that the secretary ought to/should do it.
" The student will complain", the teacher said. "Let them", said the headmaster.	The headmaster said that he did not mind if the student complained.

Use 'suggest' as reporting verb when 'let's' expresses a suggestion
Use urge/advice if 'let's' expresses a call to action
Use ought to/should when the speaker is shifting the responsibility to someone and something else.

Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration

Reporting and summarising

When we want to report what people say, we don't usually try to report their exact words. We usually give a summary, for example:

Direct speech (exact words):

Mary: Oh dear. We've been walking for hours! I'm exhausted. I don't think I can go any further. I really need to stop for a rest.

Peter: Don't worry. I'm not surprised you're tired. I'm tired too. I'll tell you what, let's see if we can find a place to sit down, and then we can stop and have our picnic.

Reported speech (summary):

When Mary complained that she was tired out after walking so far, Peter said they could stop for a picnic.

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/english-grammar-reference/reported-speech>

Points to Remember

If the sentence starts in the Simple present, i.e., the reporting verb) is in the present tense (e. g. He says)- Do not change the tense, however personal pronoun is changed

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"I write poems."	He says that he writes poems.
He says, "I write poems."	He says that he writes poems.
The teacher said, 'Honesty is the best policy.'	he teacher said that honesty is the best policy.

If the content is still true or happening then we do not need to change the tense in the reported speech. Like;

She said, "I live in Paris."	She said that she lives in Paris.

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

Our teacher said, "The earth is round"	Our teacher said that the earth is round.

Dear Students/Teacher/Parents

Kindly visit English Language Learning Websites for more resources. You can find list of websites in Resources and Reference section.

Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration

Direct and Indirect Speech Exercise

1. 'She is my best friend,' he said. He said that she his best friend.
 - a. is
 - b. was
 - c. has been
2. 'She is waiting for us,' he said. / He said that she for them.
 - a. is waiting
 - b. was waiting
 - c. has been waiting
3. 'I have visited all the continents,' he said. / He said that he all the continents.
 - a. visited
 - b. has visited
 - c. had visited
4. 'She has been living alone for years,' he said. / He said that she alone for years.
 - a. was living
 - b. has been living
 - c. had been living
5. 'She will help us,' he said. / He said that she help them.
 - a. will
 - b. would
 - c. could
6. 'I want to go,' he said. He said that he to go.
 - a. wants
 - b. wanted
 - c. had wanted
7. 'I don't want to go,' she said. / She said that she to go.
 - a. didn't want
 - b. doesn't want
 - c. don't want
8. 'I have watched that movie,' he said. / He said that he that movie.
 - a. have watched
 - b. had watched
 - c. has watched
9. 'She must leave now,' he said. / He said that she leave then.
 - a. must
 - b. had to
 - c. Either could be used here
10. 'I can't help you,' he said. / He said that he help me.
 - a. can't
 - b. couldn't
 - c. wouldn't
11. 'They will have gone,' he said. / He said that they will have gone
 - a. would go
 - b. would have gone

Reported Speech
Direct Speech to Indirect Speech
Narration

12. 'I am busy,' he shouted. / He shouted that he busy.

- a. is
- b. was
- c. has been

<https://www.englishgrammar.org/direct-and-indirect-speech-exercise-2/>

Answer-

1. 'She is my best friend,' he said. He said that she was his best friend.
2. 'She is waiting for us,' he said. /He said that she was waiting for them.
3. 'I have visited all the continents,' he said. / He said that he had visited all the continents.
4. 'She has been living alone for years,' he said. / He said that she had been living alone for years.
5. 'She will help us,' he said. / He said that she would help them.
6. 'I want to go,' he said. He said that he wanted to go.
7. 'I don't want to go,' she said. / She said that she didn't want to go.
8. 'I have watched that movie,' he said. / He said that he had watched that movie.
9. 'She must leave now,' he said. / He said that she had to / must leave then.
10. 'I can't help you,' he said. / He said that he couldn't help me.
11. 'They will have gone,' he said. / He said that they would have gone.
12. 'I am busy,' he shouted. / He shouted that he was busy.

<https://www.englishgrammar.org/direct-and-indirect-speech-exercise-2/>

Resources and References

<https://www.olabs.edu.in/>

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/reported-speech-2>

<https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/editorial-manual/indirect-speech>

<https://stlcc.edu/student-support/academic-success-and-tutoring/writing-center/writing-resources/reported-speech-and-direct-speech.aspx>

<https://www.wallstreetenglish.com/exercises/direct-and-indirect-speech-exercises>

<https://www.eslbase.com/grammar/reported-questions>

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/english-grammar-reference/reported-speech>

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/reported-speech.html>

<https://www.englishgrammar.org/direct-and-indirect-speech-exercise-2/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/>

<http://www.manythings.org/>