

Class Notes	
Class: VII	Topic: Direct & Indirect Speech
Subject: ENGLISH	

### Direct & Indirect Speech

The act of reporting the words of a speaker is called narration. There are basically two ways in which the words of the speaker can be conveyed in writing.

**a) Direct Speech (Direct Narration):** The reporting of the words of the speaker without making any changes to it is known as Direct Speech. Direct speech is shown inside double quotation marks.

**b) Indirect Speech (Indirect Narration):** The act of reporting the words of the speaker by making necessary changes to it is called Indirect Speech. In indirect speech, while narrating something, changes are made in the original words of the person. For example, tenses and pronouns are changed according to the reporting verb.

Examples:

i) My mother told me, "You have to work harder at school." (Direct speech)

ii) My mother told me that I had to work harder at school. (Indirect speech)

Some changes to consider

a) 1st person (I, we, etc.) → change according to the subject of the reporting verb.

b) 2nd person (You, your, etc.) → change according to the object of the reporting verb.

c) 3rd person (He, she, it, they, his, her etc.) → make no change.

d) Change 1st person into 3rd person if the reporting verb has not object mentioned.

### Rules for Changing Simple Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

#### Reported speech- Play of the tenses:

Direct speech tense	Indirect/Reported speech tense
Simple present	simple past
present continuous	past continuous
simple past	past perfect
past continuous	past perfect continuous
present perfect tense	past perfect tense
past perfect tense	past perfect tense

This is a **summary** table that will be **crystal** clear to you as you read further. Just come back to this table after this section and use this as a summary table:

Tense	Direct speech	Reported speech	Changed tense
Simple present	I like to swim in the ocean	She said she liked to swim in the ocean	Simple past
Simple present	I live in New Orleans	He said he lived in New Orleans	Simple past
Past simple	I went to school in the morning	She said she had gone to school that morning	Past perfect
Present continuous	I was going to the Himalayas	He said he was going to the Himalayas	Past continuous
Past continuous	I was walking near the beach	She said that she had been walking near the beach	past perfect continuous
Past continuous	I was walking near the beach	She said that she had been walking near the beach	past perfect continuous
Present perfect	I have caught a few fishes	She said she had caught a few fishes	past perfect
Past perfect	I had trekked the Himalayas this time last year	He said he had trekked the Himalayas this time last year	Past perfect

Some word transitions from direct to **reported speech** that will come in handy:

- Will becomes would
- Can becomes could
- would stays would
- should stays should
- must stays must or had to (matter of choice)
- shall becomes should

Examples:

He said, "I will study the book." ----- He said that he would study the book.

They said to me, "We will send you gifts." ----- They told me that they would send me gifts.

Shreya told him, "I will be waiting for you." ----- Shreya told him that she would be waiting for him.

He said, "He will not be flying kites." ----- He said that he would not be flying kites.  
He said, "I will have finished the work." ----- He said that he would have finished the work.

Narayan said, "I will have gone." ----- Narayan said that he would have gone.

### Changes in Time words.

now – then

ago – before

today – that day

last night – the previous night or the night before

next week – the following week

here – there

hither – thither

this – that

these - those

thus – so

Note: Do not change the tense if the introductory clause is in a present tense (e. g. He says). Note, however, that you might have to change the form of the present tense verb (3rd person singular).

Example:

He **says**, "I write poems." – He says that he writes poems.

Example:

He **said**, "I am happy." – He said that he was happy.

Exercise A. Change the following from direct speech to reported speech

1. Rama said, 'I want to go home.'
2. He said to me, 'I have never seen such a brilliant boy as you are.'
3. A lady said to the girl, 'I like your frock.'
4. Raju said, 'I will go to Mumbai if my parents give me permission.'
5. 'If you want to buy a car, I can lend you some money,' my dad said to me.
6. 'I am looking for my cat,' she said.
7. My uncle told me, 'I will buy you a bicycle.'
8. 'I am quitting,' she says.
9. 'I want to try on the shirt before I buy it,' the customer said.
10. 'You must change your wet clothes,' mother told me.

### Rules regarding **universal truths** in Indirect Speech.

When the reported clause/statement of a direct speech is a universal truth speech or any historical event or a habitual action (a part of the daily routine), then the tense in the indirect speech doesn't change, no matter in whatever tense the reporting verb (say/said) is.

Example: The teacher said, "The sun rises in the east." (Direct Speech)

The teacher said that the sun rises in the east. (Indirect Speech)

1. Our Science teacher said, "Stars have their own light and planets don't have."

Our Science teacher told that stars have their own light and planets don't have.

2. My father said, "There are 7 days in a week."

My father told that there are 7 days in a week.