

# ENGLISH

## Grammar: Direct and Indirect Speech



# Direct and Indirect Speech

## What is Direct and Indirect Speech?

The words of a speaker can be reported in two ways:

1. Using the direct words of the speaker
2. Reporting what the speaker said

**Direct speech** involves quoting the exact words of the speaker.

**Indirect (Reported) speech** is used to report what a person said.

### Examples

**Direct:** Suraj said, "I don't like this hotel at all."

**Indirect:** Suraj said that he doesn't like that hotel at all.

**Direct:** Kevin said, "Please pass me a sheet of paper."

**Indirect:** Kevin requested someone to pass him a sheet of paper.

**Direct:** Lalit asked, "Why is Omi standing outside the class?"

**Indirect:** Lalit asked why Omi was standing outside the class.

- Use quotation marks to open and close direct speech.
- Place a comma before the quotation marks.

## Rules for Changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

Tenses	
Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
<b>Simple Present</b> She said, "It's snowing."	<b>Simple Past</b> She said that it was snowing.
<b>Present Continuous</b> She said, "I'm teaching Geography."	<b>Past Continuous</b> She said that she was teaching Geography.
<b>Present Perfect Continuous</b> She said, "I've been teaching Geography for five years."	<b>Past Perfect Continuous</b> She said that she had been teaching Geography for five years.
<b>Simple Past</b> She said, "I taught quilling yesterday."	<b>Past Perfect</b> She said that she had taught quilling yesterday.
<b>Past Continuous</b> She said, "I was an athlete earlier."	<b>Past Perfect Continuous</b> She said that she had been an athlete earlier.
<b>Past Perfect</b> She said, "The workshop had already started when they arrived."	<b>Past Perfect</b> She said that the workshop had already started when they arrived.
<b>Past Perfect Continuous</b> She said, "I'd already been speaking for five minutes."	<b>Past Perfect Continuous</b> She said that she'd already been speaking for five minutes.

- Use the present tense in indirect speech to report facts and universal truths.
  - **Direct Speech:** "My name is Soham," he said.
  - **Indirect Speech:** He said that his name is Soham.
- Use the present tense to report a future event in indirect speech.
  - **Direct Speech:** "Next week's session is on time management," she said.
  - **Indirect Speech:** She said next week's session will be on anger management.

## Rules for Changing Modal Auxiliaries in Indirect Speech

Modals	
Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
<b>will</b> She said, "I will buy groceries tomorrow."	<b>would</b> She said that she would buy grocery tomorrow.
<b>can</b> She said, "I can donate books online."	<b>could</b> She said that she could donate books online.
<b>must</b> She said, "I must have a library for the children."	<b>had to</b> She said that she had to have a library for the children.
<b>shall</b> She said, "What shall we make today?"	<b>should</b> She asked what we should make today.
<b>may</b> She said, "May I start on a new page?"	<b>might</b> She asked if she might start on a new page.
<p><b>There is no change to <i>could</i>, <i>would</i>, <i>should</i>, <i>might</i> and <i>ought to</i>.</b></p>	

## Rules for Changing Expressions of Time

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
<b>this (evening)</b>	<b>that (evening)</b>
Kamal said, "Can we meet this evening?"	Kamal asked if they could meet <u>that evening</u> .
<b>today</b>	<b>that( very) day</b>
The teacher said, "I need the assignment <u>today</u> ."	The teacher said that she needed the assignment <u>that very day</u> .
<b>yesterday</b>	<b>day before/previous day</b>
"Didn't I warn you <u>yesterday</u> ?" said the boss.	The boss asked whether or not he warned him <u>the day before</u> .
<b>these (days)</b>	<b>those (days)</b>
Phillip sighed, "There is no sense of honour <u>these days</u> ."	Phillip sighed that there was no sense of honour <u>those days</u> .
(a week) ago/ last week	(a week) before
Jigar said, "I called you a week ago."	Jigar stated that he called me a week before.
last weekend	previous weekend
Meena said, "We went out <u>last weekend</u> ."	Meena said that they went out the <u>previous weekend</u> .
here	there
Bob said, "Stand <u>here</u> !"	Bob ordered him to stand <u>there</u> .

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
next (week)	following (week)
They asked me, "Can you join us <u>next week</u> ?"	They asked me if I could join them <u>the following week</u> ,
tomorrow	next/following day
"Let us go to the park <u>tomorrow</u> " said my friend.	My friend proposed that we go to the park <u>the next day</u> .

## Direct to Indirect Speech – Types of Sentences

The reporting verb 'said' is changed according to the following rules from direct to indirect speech.

### Declarative Sentences

The reporting verb **said** may change to **replied, answered, informed, warned, stated, mentioned or explained**.

### Interrogative Sentences

**Said** may change to **asked**.

### Imperative Sentences

**Said** may change to

- ordered, commanded or told** for **commands**
- asked, requested, pleaded or begged** for **requests**
- suggested, urged, forbade, warned or advised** for **suggestions**

### Exclamatory Sentences

**Said** may change to **exclaimed with joy/sorrow/delight/anger/fear/surprise** depending on the emotions conveyed.

### A direct narration expressing wish or prayer:

**Said** may change to **wished, prayed, blessed or cursed** based on what needs to be conveyed.

## Examples

**Direct Speech:** Soniya said, “I am going to visit grandma next week.”

**Indirect Speech:** Soniya said that she was going to visit grandma the following week.

**Direct Speech:** Jalpa said, “Amit, please give my pencil box back.”

**Indirect Speech:** Jalpa requested Amit to give her pencil box back.

**Direct Speech:** Mother said to me, “What will you eat for dinner? Buy some fresh vegetables on your way back home.”

**Indirect Speech:** Mother asked me what I would eat for dinner and asked me to buy some fresh vegetables on my way back home.

**Direct Speech:** Noorie said, “Tejal, what have you brought for lunch?”

**Indirect Speech:** Noorie asked Tejal what she had brought for lunch.

**Direct Speech:** Jeevan asked Nitin, “Where are you going for vacation? Nitin said, “I am going to Sikkim.”

**Indirect Speech:** Jeevan asked Nitin where he was going for vacation. Nitin replied that he was going to Sikkim.

**Direct Speech:** Jatin said, “I hope Sunil recovers soon from his illness.”

**Indirect Speech:** Jatin wished that Sunil might recover soon from his illness.

**Direct Speech:** The teacher said to the students, “You will be taken to the laboratory after five minutes for your practical exam.”

**Indirect Speech:** The teacher told the students that they would be taken to the laboratory after five minutes for their practical exam.

**Direct Speech:** “Excuse me. Do you know the way to the ticket counter?” the tourist asked Chetan.

Chetan said, “Yes. First take the escalator and then the first right.”

**Indirect Speech:** The tourist asked Chetan if he knew the way to the ticket counter. Chetan told him to take the escalator and then the first right.

**Direct Speech:** Mahesh told Namrata, “I have signed a new contract.”

**Indirect Speech:** Mahesh told Namrata that he had signed a new contract.