

## Indirect Speech (Reported Speech)

There are two ways of relating what a person has said: direct and indirect.

In direct speech, we repeat the original speaker's exact words:

e.g.: He said, "I have finished my work."

Direct speech is found in conversations in books, in plays, and in quotations. It is kept between two inverted commas.

In indirect speech we give the exact meaning of a speech without necessarily using the speaker's exact words:

He said that he had finished his work.

There is no comma after say in indirect speech. When we turn direct speech into indirect, some changes are usually necessary.

Three types of sentences should be considered.

## 10. Statements:

When the verb introducing a statement is in the present, present perfect or future, no tense change is required:

She says "I am tired"

She says that she is tired

But when the introducing verb is in the past, the following changes are necessary:

<u>Direct</u>	<u>indirect</u>
Simple present	Simple past
simple past	past perfect
present continuous	past continuous
present perfect	past perfect
present perfect continuous	past perfect continuous
future	conditional

Exercise:

Change the following sentences into indirect statements:

- 1- Layla said "The food is too salty"  
Layla said that the food was too salty.
- 2- Sami said "I have done all the exercises"  
Sami said that he had done all the exercises.
- 3- Luma said "I'm the richest woman in town"  
Luma said that she was the richest woman in town.
- 4- Zeki said "I have lost my glasses"  
Zeki said that he had lost his glasses.
- 5- Suham said "The children go to the park with their parents."  
Suham said that the children went to the park with their parents.
- 6- Suhad said "I am going to the park"  
Suhad said that she was going to the park.
- 7- Nabeel said "I will buy a palace"  
Nabeel said that he would buy a palace.

8- The girls said "They laughed at the joke."

The girls said that they had laughed at the joke -

9- The children said "We are sleeping"

The children said that they were sleeping.

10- Amal said "I went to the party"

Amal said that she had gone to the party.

## Exercise about indirect speech (Statements)

Change the following sentences into indirect  
statements

1- Layla said "The food is too salty."

2- Sami said "I have done all the exercises."

3- Luma said "I'm the richest woman in the town."

4- Zeki said "I have lost my glasses."

5- Suham said "The children go to the park with their parents."

6- Suhad said "I am going to the park."

7- Nabeel said "I will buy a palace."

8- The girls said "They laughed at the joke."

9- The children said "We are sleeping."

10- Amal said "I went to the party."

## 2. Questions

To change a direct question into an indirect question the following steps should be followed;

1- Say(s) becomes ask(s)

Said becomes asked

2- The question mark should be omitted and replaced by a full stop. Then put the question word

3- The subject should precede the verb.

4- If there is no question word, (if) or (whether) is used after the introductory verb.

e.g.

He says, "How does it taste?"

He asks how it tastes.

Nada said to me, "What did you buy?"

Nada asked me what I had bought.

They said, "Will he be here tomorrow?"

They asked whether he would be there the next day.

Some words are changed as follows =

<u>Direct</u>	<u>Indirect</u>
now	then
this	that
these	those
today	that day
yesterday	the day before
tomorrow	the next day / the following day
next week/year	the following week/year
last week	the previous week
a year ago	a year before
here	there
said to	told

e.g. Waleed said, "I am quite all right today."

Waleed said that he was quite all right that day.

She said "I have phoned him twice this week."

She said that she had phoned him twice that week.

In addition, pronouns and possessive adjectives are normally changed from the first or second person to third

Change direct questions into indirect questions:

- 1- "What are you doing?" he asked me.
- 2- "Where has she been?" I asked
- 3- "What will they say?" she asked
- 4- "What did you buy?" Huda asked me
- 5- "Has anyone seen my watch?" Tariq asked
- 6- "Do you know?" I asked him
- 7- "Are you o.k.?" He asked me
- 8- "Did you have fun?" She asked
- 9- "Can you help?" he asked me
- 10- "Can you check the prices of the goods?" He asked
- 11- "Did you study English at university?" Amal asked
- 12- "Are you feeling alright?" Ahmed asked Waleed
- 13- Layla asked her mother "Can I go out with my friends to the zoo?"



hang a direct questions into indirect questions:

- 1- "What are you doing?" he asked me -  
He asked me what I was doing.
- 2- "Where has she been?" I asked  
I asked where she had been.
- 3- "What will they say?" she asked -  
She asked what they would say -
- 4- "What did you buy?" Huda asked me  
Huda asked me what I had bought -
- 5- "Has anyone seen my watch?" Tariq asked  
Tariq asked if anyone had seen his watch.
- 6- "Do you know?" I asked him  
I asked him if he knew -
- 7- "Are you o.k.?"  
He asked me if I was o.k.
- 8- "Did you have fun?" She asked  
She asked if I had fun -
- 9- "Can you help?" he asked me -  
He asked me whether I could help

10- "Can you check the prices of the goods?" He asked.  
He asked if he could check the prices of the goods.

11- "Did you study English at university?" Amal asked Noor.

Amal asked Noor if she had studied English at university.

12- "Are you feeling alright?" Ahmed asked Waleed.  
Ahmed asked Waleed if he was feeling alright.

13- Layla asked her mother "Can I go out with my friends to the zoo?"

Layla asked her mother if she could go out with her friend to the zoo.

## 600 Commands :

To change a command into reported speech (indirect speech), the following steps should be followed;

- 1- The introductory verb is changed into the relevant tense of one of the following verbs: ask, order, tell, advise
- 2- The verb after the introductory verb should be changed into the infinitive. In the case of negation, the infinitive should be preceded by not

Examples:

- 1- The teacher said to Ali "Sit down, Ali"  
The teacher told Ali to sit down.
- 2- Ahmed said, "Don't do it again, boys"  
He told the boys not to do it again
- 3- The doctor said to Ali "Don't smoke"  
The doctor advised Ali not to smoke

4. The teacher ~~said~~ said to me "Put your Pencil down."

The teacher told me to put my pencil down

5. Maha said "Clean the kitchen, please"

Maha asked to Clean the kitchen.

### Exercise:

change the following into indirect command:

1- Lara <sup>said to</sup> ~~said~~ Samira "Don't bring any food into the hospital"

Lara advised Samira not to bring any food into the hospital.

2. The teacher said to the pupils "stop talking"

The teacher asked the pupils to stop talking.

3. The mother said to her son "Do your homework"

The mother <sup>asked</sup> ~~said~~ her son to do his homework

4. Muna said to her husband "don't drive so fast"

Muna asked her husband not to drive so fast.

## Exercise

Change the following into indirect command:

- 5- The doctor said to her "Don't eat too much"
- 6- The policeman said to the thief "hands up"
- 7- He said to the taxi driver "Take me to south street, please"
- 8- The conductor said to him "Don't smoke in the bus"
- 9- The shop assistant said to him "Please pay here"
- 10- The child said to his mother "Let me go with my friend"

The doctor said to her "Don't eat too much"

The doctor asked her not to eat too much.

6. The policeman said to the thief "hands up"

The policeman asked the thief to hands up

7. He said to the taxi driver "Take me to south street, please"

He asked the taxi driver to take him to south street.

8. The conductor said to him "Don't smoke in the bus"

The conductor asked him not to smoke in the bus

9. The shop assistant said to him "Please pay here"

The shop assistant asked him to pay here.

10. The child said to his mother "let me go with my friend"

The child asked his mother to let him go with his friend