

# Lecture No 7 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:-

Amna said, "I am very busy now."

In the above example the Speaker i.e

**Amna** is known as **Reporter**,

**said** is known as **Reporting verb** and

**"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 SHE 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 - Kamran said to me," I shall go to the picture today"  
INDIRECT- Kamran 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.

## Rules of change of Pronouns

Nominative	Possessive	Objective	Reflexive
I	My	Me	Myself
We	Our	Us	Ourselves
You	Yours	You	Yourself
He	His	Him	Himself
She	Her	Her	Herself
They	Their	Them	Themselves

**Pronouns are changed according to a rule designated as SON where**

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

### **Rule No 1.**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- **They said " We are in tenth class"**
- **They said that they were in tenth class**

### ➤ **Rule No 2.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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, “Uzma performs on the stage”  
**Indirect:** The teacher says that Uzma performs on the stage.
- **Direct:** The teacher is saying, “Uzma performs on the stage”  
**Indirect:** The teacher is saying that Uzma performs on the stage.
- **Direct:** The teacher will say, “Uzma is performing on the stage”  
**Indirect:** The teacher will say that Uzma 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.

- **Simple present** changes to **Simple Past**
- **Present Continuous** changes to **Past Continuous**
- **Present Perfect** changes to **Past Perfect**
- **Present Perfect Continuous** into **Past Perfect Continuous**
- **Simple Past** changes to **Past Perfect**
- **Past Continuous** changes to **Past Perfect Continuous**
- **In Future Tense will/Shall** changes to **would**
- **Can** changes to **Could**
- **May** changes to **Might**

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- **Corresponding Changes to past form in an indirect speech from the verb in**

- **Reported speech.**

- **Simple present** changes to **Simple Past**

- Heena said, "I talk to her."

- Heena said that she talked to her.

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- **Present Continuous** changes to **Past Continuous**

- Adnan said, "I am having tea."

- Adnan said that he was having tea.

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- **Present Perfect** changes to **Past Perfect**

- Ayesha said, "Uzma has left for school."

- Ayesha said that Uzma had left for school.

- **Present Perfect Continuous** into **Past Perfect Continuous**

- Amir said "We've been learning French for 3 years,"

- Amir said that he had been learning French for 3 years

- **Simple Past** changes to **Past Perfect**

- Hamza said, "Ananya took pasta."

- Hamza said that Ananya had taken pasta

- **Past Continuous** changes to **Past Perfect Continuous**
- They told me, “We were living in Paris.”
- They told me that they had been living in Paris
- **In Future Tense will/Shall** changes to **would**
- Ramesha said, “I will go to Sri Lanka.”
- Ramesha said that she would go to Sri Lanka.
- **Can** changes to **Could**
- Direct : She said, ‘She **can** dance’.
- Indirect: She said that she **could** dance.
- **May** changes to **Might**
- Direct: She said, ‘I **may** buy a dress’.
- Indirect: She said that she **might** buy a dress.
- **Some of the exceptional cases of Rule 2**

### **Exception 1**

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

**Direct: She said “My sister was making lunch when I was studying”**

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

### **Exception 3**

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

**Direct: She said, “If I were rich, I would have help him.”**

**Indirect: She said that if she were rich she would have helped him.**

### **Exception 4**

**If Reported speech contains had 3<sup>rd</sup> form, to-infinitive and would, could, should, 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.**

❖ Some other small changes that used to take place while changing Direct Speech to Indirect Speech.

<b>Here</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>There</b>
<b>Now</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>Then</b>
<b>This</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>That</b>
<b>These</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>Those</b>
<b>Today</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>That day</b>
<b>To-night</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>That night</b>
<b>Yesterday</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>The previous day</b>
<b>Last night</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>The previous night</b>
<b>Last week</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>The previous week</b>
<b>Tomorrow</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>The next day</b>
<b>Next Week</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>The following week</b>
<b>Ago</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>Before</b>
<b>Thus</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>so</b>
<b>Hence</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>Thence</b>
<b>Hither</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>Thither</b>
<b>Come</b>	<b>Changes to</b>	<b>Go/come</b>

## Note:-

### Rules for Change in Narration of different type of sentences

#### Type No 1. Assertive Sentences

##### Rule 1

- If there is no object after Reporting verb there it should not be changed.
- If there is some object after Reporting verb then say is changed to tell, says to tells and said to told.
- According to the context said to can be replaced by replied, informed, stated, added, remarked, asserted, assured, pleaded, reminded, reported or complained etc.

## Type No 2. Interrogative Sentences

### Rule 1

An interrogative sentence is meant to ask questions, therefore, Reporting verb said/said to is changed to asked.

Said to can also be changed into enquired or demanded

### Rule 2

If question is formed with the help of any of the helping verbs like is/are/am, was/were, has/have, do/does, will/would etc then “ \_\_\_ ” are to be replaced by if or whether

- **Direct:** He said, “**Will** you come for the meeting?”
- **Indirect:** He asked **if they would** come for the meeting.  
**Direct:** He **said** to him, “**Are you studying English?**”  
**Indirect:** He **asked him whether** he was studying English.

If the question is formed with the help of words starting with “Wh” like who, whose, what, whom, when etc (also known as W family) or How then to replace “ \_\_\_ ” no conjunction is used.

- **Direct:** He **said to** me, “What are you doing?”  
**Indirect:** He **asked** me what I was doing.  
**Direct:** “**Where** do you live?” asked the girl.
- **Indirect:** The girl **enquired where** I lived.

## Direct Speech to Indirect Speech Conversion – Changes in Modals

➤ While changing direct speech to indirect speech, the modals used in the sentences change like:

- Can becomes could
- May becomes might
- Must becomes had to /would have to

### Examples

Direct : She said, 'She **can** dance'.

Indirect: She said that she **could** dance.

Direct: She said, 'I **may** buy a dress'.

Indirect: She said that she **might** buy a dress.

Direct: Rama said, 'I **must** complete the assignment'.

Indirect: Rama said that he **had to** complete the assignment.

➤ There are modals that do not change – **Could, Would, Should, Might, Ought to**

Direct: She said, 'I should clean the house'

Indirect: She said that she should clean the house.

# Imperative Sentences

Imperative sentences are sentences that give an order or a direct command. These sentences may be in the shape of advice, entreaty, request, or order. Mostly, it depends upon the forcefulness of the speaker. Thus, a full stop or sign of exclamation is used at the end of the sentence. For example:

1. Shut the door!
2. Please shut the door.
3. Repair the door by tomorrow!

- To convert these types of sentences into indirect speech, follow the following rules along with the above-mentioned rules:
- The reporting verb is changed according to reported speech into order in case the sentence gives a direct command. For example:

**Direct Speech:** The teacher *said* to me, “ Shut the door.”

**Indirect Speech:** The teacher *ordered* me to shut the door.

- The reporting verb is changed according to reported speech into a request in case the sentence makes a request. For example:

**Direct Speech:** He *said* to me, “Please shut the door.”

**Indirect Speech:** He *requested* me to shut the door.

- The reporting verb is changed according to reported speech into forbade in case the sentence prevents someone from doing something. For example:

**Direct Speech:** He *said* to me, “Not to smoke.”

**Indirect Speech:** He *forbade* me to smoke.

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
We said to him, “Mind your own business.”	We urged him to mind his own business.
She said to him, “Consult a doctor.”	She suggested him to consult a doctor.
He said to me, “Write it again.”	He asked me to write it again.
You said to your father, “Please grant him leave for some time.”	You requested your father to grant him leave for some time.
My mother said to me, “Never tell a lie.”	My mother forbade me to tell a lie.

## Exercise

1. The girl said, 'It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening.'
2. The man said, 'I must go as soon as possible.'
3. She said, 'I don't want to see any of you; go away.'
4. The teacher says, 'If you work hard, you will pass.'
5. He said, 'I have won.'
6. He said, 'Let's wait for her return.'
7. Alice said, 'How clever I am!'
8. 'Which way did she go?' asked the young man.
9. He said to me, 'Where are you going?'
10. 'Please wait here till I return,' she told him.



## Exercise

1. 'What do you want?' she asked him.
2. 'Are you coming with us?' he asked me.
3. He asked, 'When do you intend to make the payment?'
4. 'Do you come from China?' said the prince to the girl.
5. The poor man exclaimed, 'Will none of you help me?'
6. 'Which way should I go?' asked the little girl.
7. Alladin said to the magician, 'What have I done to deserve so severe a punishment?'
8. 'Don't you know the way home?' I said to her.
9. 'Do you write a good hand?' the teacher said to the student.
10. 'Have you anything to say on behalf of the accused?' said the judge finally.
11. 'Have you anything to tell me, little bird?' asked Ahmad.
12. 'Who are you, sir, and what do you want?' they asked.
13. The king was impressed with the magician and asked, 'What can I do for you?'
14. She asked, 'What is it that makes you stronger and braver than other men?'
15. 'Can you solve this problem?' he asked me.