

PSBB LLA, Bangalore

Class 8

English Language Classwork

Topic: **Direct and Indirect Speech**

There are two ways in which we can talk about what someone has said. We can quote the actual words spoken. We can say:

Manish said, "I read a very interesting novel."

We can also talk of what was said without repeating the exact words:

Manish said that he had read a very interesting novel.

The following rules apply to direct speech:

1. We use inverted commas or quotation marks to mark off the exact words that the speaker has used.
2. The sentence inside the inverted commas starts with a capital letter.
3. A reporting verb (said) is used.
4. The speaker's words are usually separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma.

General rules for changing direct into indirect speech:

1. No quotation marks or inverted commas are used.
2. The comma separating the reporting verb and the speaker's words is removed.
3. Personal pronouns change according to person.
4. The main verb in the sentence usually changes to the past tense.
5. All kinds of sentences change to **statements**.

Note- Though we do not use the speaker's own words, we must be careful to follow certain rules when using reported speech or we may be misunderstood.

****Change of tense forms-**

...simple present tense – simple past tense

Example: Shriya said, "I like chocolates."

Shriya said that she liked chocolates.

However, for statements about universal or things that are true at all times, no change is made in the tense of the verb.

Examples: a) The teacher said, ‘The sun rises in the east’. The teacher said that the sun rises in the east.

b) Father said, “God helps those who help themselves.”
Father said that God helps those who help themselves.

...present continuous tense – past continuous tense

Example: Tom said, “My brother is playing chess with his friend.”
Tom said that his brother was playing chess with friend.

...present perfect tense – past perfect tense

Example: The student said, “I have completed the work.”
The student said that he had completed the work.

... simple past tense – past perfect tense

Example: He said, “I bought the watch in London.”
He said that he had bought the watch in London.

... past continuous tense – past perfect continuous tense

Example: Rosy said, “John was buying some vegetables in the market.”
Rosy said that John had been buying some vegetables in the market.

If the reporting verb is in the present or future tense, the tense of the main verb does not change.

Example: Mother says, “The tea is hot.”
Mother says that the tea is hot.

** David will say, “I am happy with my new car.”
David will say that he is happy with his new car.

... **past perfect tense – no change**

The table below shows how some verbs change when converted to indirect speech.

| Direct Speech | Indirect Speech |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| is, am | was |
| Was | had been |
| go/goes | went |
| had/have | had |
| do/does not | did/did not |
| Can | could |
| May | might |
| shall/will | should/would |
| Must | had to |

Change of Time and Place-

| Direct Speech | Indirect Speech |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| This | that |
| These | those |
| Now | then |
| Today | that day |
| Tonight | that night |
| Yesterday | the previous day/the day before |
| Tomorrow | the following day |

Change in pronouns/person-

1.He said, “I am going for a walk now.”

He said that he was going for a walk then.

2.Radhika said, “I don’t like the story.”

Radhika said that she didn’t like the story.

Reporting Verbs-

If the reporting verb has an object, the past tense of ‘tell’ is used.

Example: Kabir said to me, “I have an important meeting today.”

Kabir told me that he had an important meeting that day.

Change the following into indirect speech.

1. Supriya said to Sanjana, "I watched the match yesterday."
2. The captain said to the team, "We must win the match today."
3. Rohan said to me, "Where is the bus?"
4. Mr. Das said to his daughter, "What class do you have now?"
5. Rita said to Rani, "Do you have a pen?"

Note- while reporting commands/requests, the reporting verb is changed to ordered/requested/commanded/pleaded/urged...

6. The teacher said to the students, "Go back to your class. Complete your work."
7. Raksha said to Kavya, "Please tell me the meaning of the word."
8. The tourist said, "What a beautiful scenery!"
9. The old woman cried, "Alas! I have lost my money."
10. "Bravo!" said the audience, "What a fantastic shot!"
11. "Don't try this at home," the stuntman told the audience.
12. Roshan said to Pritam, "Have you finished writing the poem? It has to be submitted tomorrow."
13. "Oh no! My book is torn!" cried Smith.
14. Our class leader said, "Let us go to the playground quietly now."
15. "Can we take photos?" asked the visitor.
16. The manager said to his assistant, "I went to Mumbai last week. I will have to go again next week."
17. My father said, "I am very angry with you. Why did you disobey your teacher yesterday?"
18. Alice said to her friends, "We are going to meet the famous actor tomorrow."
19. "Which dress you like the best?" Diana asked her friend.
20. "James! Don't touch the electric wires!" yelled Jerry.
