

UNIT ONE APPLIED GRAMMAR

1.8 DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

We use various types of structures in day to day communication. Sometimes we communicate directly with each other while some time we report someone other's words or sentences. In other words we speak our own sentences and also report someone others.

There are two ways of verb use.

1. Direct Speech.

Direct speech shows the actual words used by the speaker. Often these words are written with quotation mark to indicate that these are actual words of a speaker.

E.g. Ram said, "I will not come to the college."

2. Indirect Speech.

When we report someone other's words, it is known as indirect speech or reported speech. A reporter presents someone other's words that carry same meaning, but with some changes.

E.g. Ram said that he would not come to the college.

Ex. 1



Ex. 2



Rules	Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Present Tense in the Direct becomes past tense.	Ravi said, "I write a letter".	Ravi said that he wrote a letter.
Past Tense in the direct	Sonia said, "I brought a pen	Sonia said that she had

becomes past perfect or remains unchanged.	yesterday".	bought a pen the day before
Present Continuous in the direct becomes past continuous.	Naveen said, "I am going to church".	Naveen said that he was going to church.
Past Continuous in the direct becomes past perfect continuous.	Nishant said, "I was playing cricket".	Nishant said that he had been playing cricket
Present Perfect in the direct becomes past perfect	Kamal said, "I have done my home work".	Kamal said that he had done his home work
Present Perfect Continuous in the direct becomes past perfect continuous	He said, "I have been reading a novel".	He said that he had been reading a novel.
'Will' and 'Shall' are changed to 'would'	He said, "I will go to London tomorrow".	He said that he would go to London the next day.
'may' changes to 'might', 'can' changes to 'could', and 'must' changes to 'had to' (or) 'must'	Roopam said, "I must go now".	Roopam said that she must (or) had to go then.
Exclamatory sentences	He said, "What a wonderful team it is!"	He exclaimed with joy that it was a very wonderful team.
	She said, "Alas! We lost the match."	She exclaimed with sorrow that they had lost the match.

Change in Modal Auxiliary Verbs

Direct speech	Indirect speech
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<i>can (ability, present)</i>	<i>could</i>
<i>can (ability, future)</i>	<i>would be able to</i>
<i>may (possibility)</i>	<i>might</i>
<i>may (permission, present)</i>	<i>could</i>
<i>may (permission, future)</i>	<i>would be allowed to</i>
<i>must (obligation, present)</i>	<i>must / had to</i>
<i>must (obligation, future)</i>	<i>must / would have to</i>
<i>needn't (necessity, present)</i>	<i>didn't have to / didn't need to</i>
<i>needn't (necessity, future)</i>	<i>wouldn't have to</i>
<i>shall (future time)</i>	<i>would</i>
<i>shall (offers, suggestions)</i>	<i>should</i>
<i>will</i>	<i>would</i>

Change the words indicating place and time

Today	changes to	that day/the same day
Tomorrow	changes to	the next day/the following day
Yesterday	changes to	the day before/the previous day
Next week/month/year	changes to	the following week/month/year
Last week/month/year	changes to	the previous week/month/year
Now/just	changes to	then
Ago	changes to	before
Here	changes to	there
This	changes to	that

There is no change in verb tenses in Reported speech when:

Exceptions	Direct speech	Reported speech
1. the sentence expresses a general truth or permanent states and conditions	My mother said, 'It gets dark earlier in the winter'	My mother said that it gets dark earlier in the winter
2. the introductory verb is in the Present, future, or Present Perfect tense	She says/ will say/ has said , 'I can cook well'	She says/ will say/ has said that she can cook well.
3. the verb of the sentence is in the	He said, 'If I had time, I	He said that he would help

Unreal past (eg. 2nd or 3rd type conditionals)	would help you'	me if he had time.
4. the following verbs are used: had better, could, would, used to, should, might and ought to, mustn't	He said, 'They should try a little harder.'	He said that they should try a little harder.
5. Past Simple changes to Past Perfect or remains the same. When the reported sentence contains a time clause, the tenses of the time clause remain unchanged.	He said, 'She came round to my house while I was doing my shopping.'	He said that she had come/ came round to his house while he was doing his shopping.
The sentence expresses something which is believed to be true. In this case the verb tense can either change or remain unchanged. However, if the sentence expresses sth which is not true, then the verb changes.	He said, 'Ethiopia is a third-world country.' (true) He said, 'Ethiopia is a highly developed country' (false)	He said that Ethiopia is/ was a third-world country He said that Ethiopia was a highly developed country.

EXERCISE

1.8.1 Sample Exercise:**Change the following sentences into Indirect Speech.**

1) Geeta said, "I do yoga daily."

Ans: Geeta said that she does Yoga daily.

2) She said to me, "What do you want now?"

Ans: She asked me what I wanted then.

3) I said to him, "Are you going for the party?"

Ans: I asked him whether he was going for the party.

4) The monitor said, "Sir, some students were making noise yesterday."

Ans: The monitor complained that some students had been making noise the day before.

5) The servant says, "The master is not at home."

Ans: The servant says that the master is not at home.

6) Anju said, "I wrote a letter."

Ans: Anju said that she had written a letter.

7) The Prime Minister said, "India became independent in 1947."

Ans: The Prime minister said that India became independent in 1947.

8) He said to the policemen, "Please save me."

Ans: He begged policeman to save him.

9) The old man said to her, "Obey your elders."

Ans: The old man ordered her to obey her elders.

10) The girl said, "Hurrah! I have won a gold medal."

Ans: The girl exclaimed in joy that she had won a gold medal.

11) Raju said, "Gautam must go tomorrow".

Ans: Raju said that Gautam should go on the next day.

12) He said, "I have passed the physical test."

Ans: He said that he had passed the physical test.

13) "Don't play on the grass, boys," she said.

Ans: She told boys not to play on the ground.

14) "You should revise your lessons," he said to me.

Ans: She advised me to revise my lessons.

15) "I shall appreciate it," he said.

Ans: He said that he would appreciate it.

16) Emma said "People in Africa are starving."

Ans: Emma said that people in Africa were starving.

17) "I brought you this book," she said to him

Ans: She told him that she had brought that book for him.

18) Param said to me, "He moved a year ago."

Ans: Param informed me that he had moved before the last year

19) He said to me "I have not done it today."

Ans: He told me that he had not done it that day.

20) She said to him, "I don't believe you".

Ans: She told him that she did not believe him.

