

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

REPORTED SPEECH

In technical and scientific writings indirect speech or reported speech gains importance especially in report writing tasks. While transforming direct sentence into indirect sentence care should be taken to make appropriate changes in the tense forms, persons, pronouns and certain adverbials and demonstratives that show time and place. Some useful hints are given below:

Change in tense forms:

Direct Speech

Simple present

Present continuous

Present perfect

Present perfect continuous

Past tense

Past continuous

Past perfect

Will/shall/can/may/must

Indirect Speech

simple past

past continuous

past perfect

past perfect continuous

past perfect

past perfect continuous

no change

would/should/could/might/must

Changes in persons and pronouns

When a third person reports the direct speech, the pronouns I, we, my, our, us, you, your are changed to he, him, she, her, they them, their etc

Change in adverbials and demonstratives

Direct Speech

This

These

Here

Now

Ago

Today

Indirect Speech

that

those

there

then

before/earlier

that day

Tonight	that night
Last week	the previous week
Tomorrow	the next day
Yesterday	the day before
Next week	the following week

Reported Verb:

Direct Speech

Indirect Speech

Said/said to

told/ asked/requested/ pleased/exclaimed

Exercises:

Direct & Indirect Speech(statement)

1. My mother said, "I did the work."
2. He says, "I am going to Delhi tomorrow."
3. He said, "I have read this novel."
4. Sheela said, "I don't like Hindi movies."
5. Monica said to her father, "I want to go on a picnic."

Answers:

1. My mother said that she had done the work.
2. He says that he is going to Delhi the next day.
3. He said that he had read that novel.
4. Sheela said that she didn't like Hindi movies.
5. Monica said to her father that she wanted to go on a picnic.

I. Direct & Indirect Speech: (Interrogative sentences)

1. I asked Meena, "Where were you last evening?"
2. He said, "Has she gone?"
3. Tom said, "Will you come and play ball with me?"
4. The beggar said to him, "Why are you laughing at me?"
5. Nisha said to Tom, "Do you recognize me?"

Answers:

1. I asked Meena where she was the previous evening.
2. He asked whether she had gone.
3. Tom asked whether I would go and play ball with him.
4. The beggar asked to him why he was laughing at him.
5. Nisha asked Tom whether he recognised her.

II. Direct & Indirect Speech: (Imperative sentences)

1. The king said, "Hang him."
2. I said to the servant, "Go to the shop and buy a newspaper."
3. He said to me, "Please lend me your camera for a day."
4. He said, "Let's go for lunch."
5. The mother said to her son, "Don't tell lies."

Answers:

1. The king ordered them to hang him
2. I ordered the servant to go to the shop and buy a newspaper.
3. He requested me to lend him my camera for a day.
4. He suggested that we should go for lunch.
5. The mother advised her son not to tell lies.

III. Direct & Indirect Speech: (Exclamatory sentences)

1. He said, "Alas! We lost the match!"
2. She said, "Welcome!"
3. She said to her daughter, "May God grant you a long life."
4. Ashok said, "What a fool Tom is!"
5. He said, "How clever the boy is!"

Answers:

1. He exclaimed with sorrow that they had lost the match.
2. She welcomed me/us.
3. She prayed that God might grant her daughter a long life.
4. Ashok exclaimed that Tom was a big fool.
5. He exclaimed and said that the boy was very clever.