DIRECT AND INDIRECT (OR REPORTED) SPEECH.

Reported speech is used to retell or report what other person has actually said. It is a very usual function in everyday language.

Direct Speech / Quoted Speech Saying exactly what someone has said is called direct speech (sometimes called quoted speech) Here what a person says appears within quotation marks

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:

DIRECT AND INDIRECT (OR REPORTED) SPEECH

- **Formal aspects**
- We can find different ways of expressing the Direct Speech: **-**
- John said: “It is quite hot today”. –
- “It is quite hot today”, he said –
- “It is quite hot today”, said John.
- All of them are reported in the same way, taking the usual word order (**SVC**):
- **John said it was quite hot that day.**

Indirect Speech / Reported Speech

Indirect Speech (sometimes called reported speech), doesn't use quotation marks to enclose what the person said and it doesn't have to be word for word.

When reporting speech the tense usually changes. This is because when we use reported speech, we are usually talking about a time in the past (because obviously the person who spoke originally spoke in the past). The verbs; therefore usually have to be in the past too.

For example: **Direct speech** **Indirect speech**

"I'm going to the cinema", he said. **He said he was going to the cinema**.

Tense change

As a rule when you report something someone has said you go back a tense: (the tense on the left changes to the tense on the right):

Direct speech		Indirect speech
sent simple e said, "It's cold."	›	**Past simple** She said it was cold.
sent continuous e said, "I'm teaching English online."	›	**Past continuous** She said she was teaching English online.
sent perfect simple e said, "I've been on the web since 99."	›	**Past perfect simple** She said she had been on the web since 1999.
sent perfect continuous e said, "I've been teaching English for en years."	›	**Past perfect continuous** She said she had been teaching English for seven years.
st simple e said, "I taught online yesterday."	›	**Past perfect** She said she had taught online yesterday.
st continuous e said, "I was teaching earlier."	›	**Past perfect continuous** She said she had been teaching earlier.
st perfect e said, "The lesson had already started en he arrived."	›	**Past perfect** NO CHANGE - She said the lesson had already started when he arrived.
st perfect continuous e said, "I'd already been teaching for five utes."	›	**Past perfect continuous** NO CHANGE - She said she'd already been teaching for five minutes.

Modal verb forms also sometimes change:

Direct speech	Indirect speech
will She said, "I'll teach English online tomorrow."	**would** › She said she would teach English online tomorrow.
can She said, "I can teach English online."	**could** › She said she could teach English online.
must She said, "I must have a computer to teach English online."	**had to** › She said she had to have a computer to teach English online.
shall She said, "What shall we learn today?"	**should** › She asked what we should learn today.
may She said, "May I open a new browser?"	**might** › She asked if she might open a new browser.

! **Note** - There is no change to; **could**, **would**, **should, might** and **ought to**.

- You can use the present tense in reported speech if you want to say that something is still true
- i.e. my name has always been and will always be Lynne so:-

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"My name is Lynne", she said.	*She said her name was Lynne.* *or* *She said her name is Lynne.*

Time change

If the reported sentence contains an expression of time, you must change it to fit in with the time of reporting. For example we need to change words like here and yesterday .

Expressions of time if reported on a different day		
this (evening)	›	that (evening)
today	›	yesterday ...
these (days)	›	those (days)
now	›	then
(a week) ago	›	(a week) before
last weekend	›	the weekend before last / the previous weekend
here	›	there
next (week)	›	the following (week)
tomorrow	›	the next/following day

Use of ‘If’ or ‘Whether’ is made For the interrogative sentences that cant be answered simply in Yes or No

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
He said to me, "Will you be here tomorrow?"	He asked me whether I would be there the next day.
Mother said to son, "Do you think to disobey me?"	Mother asked son if he thought to disobey her.
Teacher said, "Do you know the exact answer?"	Teacher asked students whether they knew the exact answer.
She said to me, "What is the name of great Mughal King?"	She asked me what was the name of great Mughal King.
They said, "What is the schedule of examination?"	They asked what was the schedule of examination.
He said to me, "Have you been to Turkey?"	He asked me if I had been to Turkey.

Mood of Sentence

Direct Speech	Mood of Sentence	Indirect Speech
Alex said, "Hurrah! I have solved reported speech pdf assignment"	Joy	Alex expressed with joy that he had solved reported speech pdf assignment.
Alex said, "Alas! I have failed the exam"	Sorrow	Alex expressed with sorrow that he had failed the exam.
Alex said, "How cool the weather is!"	Wonder	Alex expressed with wonder that it was the cool weather.
She said, "Vow! what a good watch it is"	Wonder	She exclaimed with wonder that it was a good watch.

Indirect Speech of Interrogative Sentences

Indirect Speech of Interrogative Sentences

Following are the basic rules of direct and indirect speech for interrogative sentences or question sentences.

1. Punctuation marks (comma, inverted comma, question marks) are removed.
2. Conjunction “that” is omitted.
3. Interrogative form is changed into assertive form of sentence.
4. ‘Said’ is changed into asked or inquired.