

DIRECT & IN DIRECT SPEECH

Direct Speech

Direct speech repeats, or quotes, the exact words spoken. When we use direct speech in writing, we place the words spoken between quotation marks (" ") and there is no change in these words. We may be reporting something that's being said NOW (for example a telephone conversation), or telling someone later about a previous conversation.

Examples:

- She says, "What time will you be home?"
- She said, "What time will you be home?" and I said, "I don't know! "
- "There's a fly in my soup!" screamed Simone.
- John said, "There's an elephant outside the window."

In Direct Speech

Reported or indirect speech is usually used to talk about the past, so we normally change the tense of the words spoken. We use reporting verbs like 'say', 'tell', 'ask', and we may use the word 'that' to introduce the reported words. Inverted commas are not used.

Examples:

- He said that he was tired
- He told me that he was tired.
- She was speaking on the telephone.
- He talked (to us) about his parents

Rules for Changing Direct Into Indirect Speech

Get one thing straight-you do not have to learn the rules by heart. Simply understand what they ask you to do and apply the same in converting a sentence from direct to indirect

RULE ONE:-

If in direct speech you find say/says or will say then DO NOT CHANGE THE TENSE that you can find within the quotation marks

Examples:-

- She says," I will be more experienced then"
She says she will be more experienced then
- I will say," He loves cricket"
I will say he loves cricket
- She will say," He was in the land of nod then"
She will say he was in the land of nod then.
- They will say," We will achieve greatness"
They will say we will achieve greatness.

RULE TWO:-

If in direct speech the words within the quotation marks talk of a universal truth or habitual action then RULE ONE is followed or in other words the tense inside the quotation marks is not changed at all.

Examples:-

- The teacher said," The sun rises in the east"
The teacher said the sun rises in the east

RULE THREE:-

If there is 'said' in the direct speech then the tense of the words inside quotation marks is changed to the past tense.

Examples:-

- He said," I killed an ant"
He said he had killed an ant.
- We said ," They have done their job"
We said they had done their job
- He said," I can do it"
He said he could do it.

Example Direct to Indirect Speech:

1. What do you want?' she asked him.
She asked him what he wanted.
2. 'Are you coming with us?' he asked me.
He asked me if I was coming/going with them.
3. He asked, 'When do you intend to make the payment?'
He enquired when I/he/she intended to make the payment.
4. 'Do you come from China?' said the prince to the girl.
The prince asked the girl if she came from China.
5. The poor man exclaimed, 'Will none of you help me?'
The poor man exclaimed whether none of them would help him.
6. 'Which way should I go?' asked the little girl.
The little girl asked which way she should go.
7. Alladin said to the magician, 'What have I done to deserve so severe a punishment?'
Alladin asked the magician what he had done to deserve so severe a punishment.
8. 'Don't you know the way home?' I said to her.
I asked her whether she did not know the way home.
9. 'Do you write a good hand?' the teacher said to the student.
The teacher asked the student if he/she wrote a good hand.
10. 'Have you anything to say on behalf of the accused?' said the judge finally.
The judge finally asked whether he/she had anything to say on behalf of the accused.
11. 'Have you anything to tell me, little bird?' asked Ulysses.
Ulysses asked the little bird whether it had anything to tell him.
12. 'Who are you, sir, and what do you want?' they asked.
They asked who he was and what he wanted.

13. She said to me, "You are my only friend."
She told me that I was her only friend.

14. 'I love you,' he told me.
He told me that he loved me.

Example In direct to Direct Speech:

1. The king was impressed with the magician and asked what he could do for him.
The king was impressed with the magician and asked, 'What can I do for you?'

2. She asked him what was it that made him stronger and braver than other men.
She asked, 'What is it that makes you stronger and braver than other men?'

3. He asked me if I could solve that problem.
'Can you solve this problem?' he asked me.

4. He said that he had got a toothache.
He said, "I have got a toothache".

5. Manu said that he was very busy then.
Manu said, "I am very busy now".

6. She told us to hurry up.
"Hurry up," she said to us.

7. He asked her to give him a cup of water.
"Give me a cup of water," he told her.

8. She said that she was going to college.
She said, "I am going to college."

9. She thanked me.
She said to me, "Thank you"

10. Raju said that Gautam would have to go the following day.
Raju said, "Gautam must go tomorrow".

11. Geetha says that her father is an Engineer.

Geetha says, "My father is an Engineer."

12. He said that he had passed the physical test.

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

13. James asked Mary where she was going.

'Where are you going?' James asked Mary.