



Hi, I am EeeBee



Direct and Indirect Speech

Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand the difference between direct and indirect speech.
- They will learn how to convert direct speech into indirect speech and vice versa.



Lead in

Read the following dialogues and write in the box which are in direct speech and which are in indirect speech.

(a)



Ankit said, "I am going to school."

Ankit said that he was going to school.

(b)



Sara said "I am too going to school."

Direct Speech and Indirect Speech

Direct speech repeats what someone has said exactly as they said it, while indirect speech reports what someone has said in your own words.

Example:

1. Vishal said, "Neeraj is a naughty boy."

2. Vishal said that Neeraj was a naughty boy.

In sentence 1, we express the exact words used by the speaker. Therefore, this sentence is said to be in **direct speech**.

In sentence 2, we do not give the exact words of the speaker but give only the substance of the speaker's words. Therefore, this sentence is said to be in **indirect speech**.

The exact words of the speaker which are put within quotation mark or inverted commas are called **reported speech**.

The verb which introduces the reported speech is called **reporting verb**.

Dheeraj said to me, "He told me a lie."

(reporting verb)

(reported speech)

- ◉ The exact words used by a speaker are called the direct speech.
- ◉ The actual words of the speaker are put within the inverted commas.
- ◉ There is a comma or a colon which separates the reporting verb from the reported speech.
- ◉ There is a full stop after the words of the speaker.
- ◉ The first word of the reported speech begins with a capital letter.
- ◉ A question mark or an exclamation mark can be used instead of a full stop to indicate a question or surprise.
- ◉ Quotation marks open before the actual words of the speaker and close after a comma or any other punctuation at the end of the dialogue.
- ◉ No inverted commas are used in Indirect speech.
- ◉ In Indirect speech the comma after the reporting verb is removed.
- ◉ In Indirect speech only a full stop is used at the end of a sentence in the indirect speech.
- ◉ In Indirect speech there are some conjunctions such as *that, what if, whether, etc.*, used before the reported speech.
- ◉ In Indirect speech the tenses change. Present becomes past.
- ◉ In Indirect speech the tense of reporting verb does not change.
- ◉ In Indirect speech the imperative and interrogative sentences are changed into assertive sentences.

Changing from Direct Speech to Indirect Speech

If the reporting verb is in the past tense, the tenses in the reported speech are changed into the corresponding past tense.

- The simple present is changed into the simple past.

Example :

Direct : Mona said, "Riya eats an apple."
(past) (simple present)

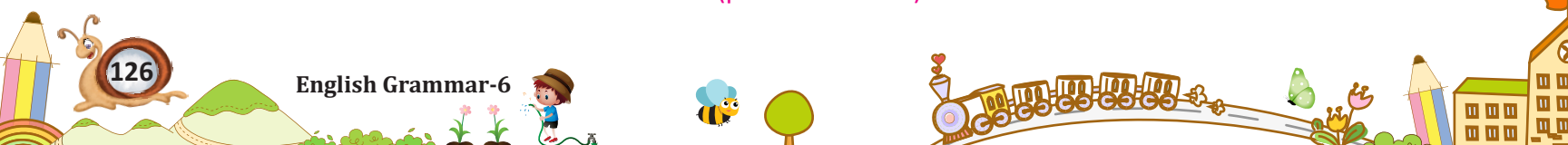
Indirect : Mona said that Riya ate an apple.
(simple past)

- The present continuous is changed into the past continuous.

Example :

Direct : Vikram said, "Nisha is singing a song."
(past) (present continuous)

Indirect : Vikram said that Nisha was singing a song.
(past continuous)





- **The present perfect is changed into the past perfect.**

Example :

Direct : Kajol **said**, "Father **has bought** a computer."
(past) (present perfect)

Indirect : Kajol said that father **had bought** a computer.
(past perfect)

- **The simple past is changed into the past perfect.**

Example :

Direct : Vishal **said**, "Dheeraj **wrote a** letter."
(past) (simple past)

Indirect : Vishal said that Dheeraj **had written** a letter.
(past perfect)

- **The past perfect remains unchanged.**

Example :

Direct : The boy **said**, "Simran **had drawn** this picture."
(past) (past perfect)

Indirect : The boy said that Simran **had drawn** that picture.
(past perfect)

- **Shall/will is changed into would.**

Example :

Direct : Arman **said**, "I'll buy a car."

Indirect : Arman said that he **would** buy a car.

- **May is changed into might.**

Example :

Direct : Ricky **said**, "He **may** come today."

Indirect : Ricky said that he **might** come today.

- **Can is changed into could.**

Example :

Direct : Deepa **said**, "Megha **can** solve the puzzle."

Indirect : Deepa said that Megha **could** solve the puzzle.

Rules for Change of Tense

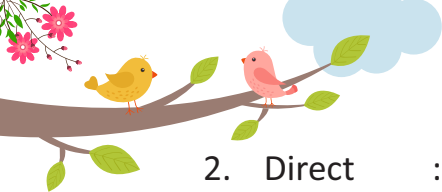
- ◎ **If the reporting verb is in the present tense or in the future tense, the tense of the verbs in the reported speech remains unchanged.**

Examples :

1. Direct : He **says**, "He sings."
(simple present)

Indirect : He says that he sings.





2. Direct : He says, "Raj was eating."
(simple present)
Indirect : He says that "Raj was eating."
3. Direct : Manish **will say**, "He is coming back."
(simple future)
Indirect : Manish will say that he is coming back.

➤ If the reported speech expresses a universal truth or a habitual fact, its tense remains unchanged.

Example :

1. Direct : Our teacher said, "The Earth is round."
Indirect : Our teacher said that the Earth is round.
2. Direct : He said, "My sister never forgets anything".
Indirect : He said that his sister never forgets anything.

A. Change the following into indirect speech.

1. Raj says, "Rohan is a good boy."

2. Vishal says, "Madhu works in an office."

3. Rakesh will say, "Books are our friends."

4. The boys said, "We are playing in the park."

5. Mother said, "I am cooking dinner."



Skills/Level
LISTENING & WRITING/A2

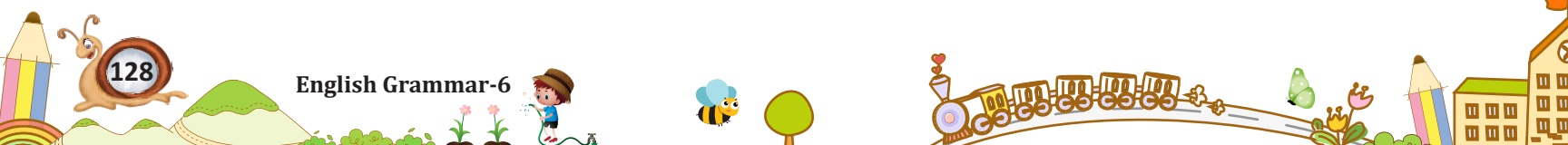


Rules for the change of Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives

➤ Pronouns and possessive adjectives of the first person are changed into pronouns and possessive adjectives of the same person as that of the subject of the reporting verb.

Examples :

1. Direct : I said, "I do **my** duty **myself**."
Indirect : I said that I did **my** duty **myself**."
2. Direct : **You** said, "I do **my** duty **myself**."
Indirect : **You** said that **you** did **your** duty **yourself**.
3. Direct : **She** said, "I do **my** duty **myself**."
Indirect : **She** said that **she** did **her** duty **herself**.





B. Change the following sentences into indirect speech.

1. Priya said, "I have bought a pen."

2. The boy said, "I am eating my breakfast."

3. He said to me, "I am doing my homework."

4. The girls said, "We are going to school."



Skills/Level
LISTENING & WRITING/A2



Change of Time and Place

| Direct | Indirect | Direct | Indirect |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|
| this | that | these | those |
| here | there | now | then |
| today | that day | come | go |
| tonight | that night | yesterday | the previous day |
| last night | the previous night | tomorrow | the next day |
| thus | so | ago | before |
| next week | the following week | | |

Changing Assertive Sentences into Indirect speech

Direct : Rupa said, "Sara obeys her parents".

Indirect : Rupa said that Sara obeyed her parents.

Direct : He said, "I am feeling well now."

Indirect : He said that he was feeling well then.



Skills/Level
LISTENING & WRITING/A2



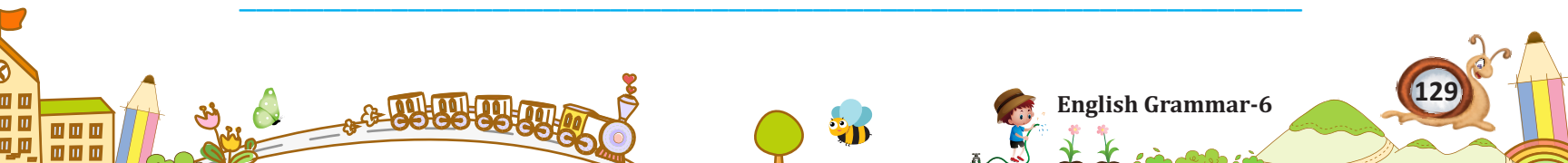
C. Change the following sentences into indirect speech.

1. Dheeraj said, "He is my best friend."

2. Vikram said, "I am going to my house."

3. Deepa said, "I followed her."

4. Megha said, "I am fond of ice-cream."





Changing Interrogative Sentences into Indirect Speech

1. Direct : He said to me, "Are you going with me?"
Indirect : He asked me if I was going with him.
2. Direct : She said to me, "Is air present everywhere?"
Indirect : She asked me if air was present everywhere.
3. Direct : I said to her, "Will you obey me?"
Indirect : I asked her if she would obey me.
4. Direct : She said to me, "Did you call her?"
Indirect : She asked me if I had called her.



Grammar Byte

- ◉ The verb **said to** is generally changed into **asked**.
- ◉ The interrogative form is changed into the assertive form.
- ◉ The conjunction **if** or **whether** is used before the reported speech if it begins with an auxiliary (helping) verb.
- ◉ No conjunction is used if the reported speech begins with **when/where/why/what/who/whom/whose/which/how, etc.**

D. Change the following sentences into indirect speech.

1. Subhas said, "Where do you live?"

2. He said to me, "Did you invite him?"

3. He said to me, "Will you help me?"

4. Raj said to me, "Are you feeling well?"

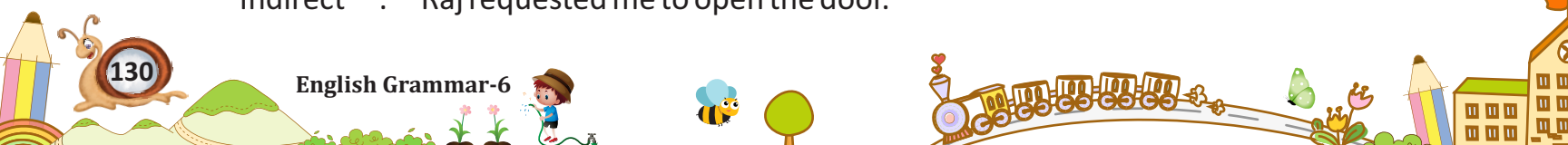


Skills/Level
LISTENING & WRITING/A2



Conversion of Imperative Sentences into Indirect Speech.

1. Direct : Teacher said to me, "Study hard."
Indirect : Teacher advised me to study hard.
2. Direct : Raj said to me, "Open the door; please."
Indirect : Raj requested me to open the door.





Grammar Byte

- The verb in the reporting speech is changed into **asked, advised, ordered, proposed, requested, forbade**, etc., as the sense may be.
- The verb in the **Imperative sentence** is changed into an infinitive by placing **to** before the finite verb.
- In the case of the sentences beginning with **let us** the verb in the reporting speech is changed into **proposed** or **suggested** followed by **that** and then, by **we should**, etc.

E. Change the following imperative sentences into indirect speech:



Skills/Level
LISTENING & WRITING/A2



1. The doctor said to my father, "Give up smoking."

2. Priya said to me, "Please lend me your pencil."

3. The teacher said to Rajat, "Work hard."

4. I said to him, "Obey your parents".



Points to Remember

- When the exact words of a speaker is reproduced, it is called the **Direct speech**.
- When instead of giving exact words of a reporter, we give only the substance of the speaker's words, it is called the **Indirect speech**.
- **If the reporting verb is in the past tense**, the tenses in the reported speech are changed into the corresponding past tense.
- **If the reporting verb is in the present tense** or in the future tense, the tense of the verbs in the reported speech remains unchanged.
- **If the reported speech expresses a universal truth or a habitual fact**, its tense remains unchanged.
- **Pronouns and possessive adjectives** of the first person are changed into pronouns and possessive adjectives of the same person as that of the subject of the reporting verb.





My Activity Corner

Two friends are discussing what happened in the school the day before. Read the dialogues and practice the conversation.

Rahul : What happened between Megha and Prateek yesterday in class?

Rakesh : Well, Prateek was upset that Megha did not invite him to be in her birthday. He asked Megha why she had not invited him.

Rahul : What did Megha reply?

Rakesh : Megha replied that she had forgotten to invite him.

Rahul : Was Prateek satisfied?

Rakesh : No, Prateek asked if she ignored him.

Rahul : How did Megha defend her statement?

Rakesh : Megha swore the name of God saying she had really forgot to invite him.



My EeeBee Interactive Activities



Listening



Speaking



Reading



Writing



Grammar



Vocabulary

WRITE YOUR SCORE

Practice your LSRW Skills



on Communication Lab

