

Narration

Direct Narration: In Direct Narration the words of the speaker is exactly said in his words. What a speaker says, his words are mentioned within the quotation marks ("....."). The speaker's words should be unaltered.

Example: She said, "Travelling is one of my hobbies." Or 'Travelling is one of my hobbies.', she said.

Indirect Narration: In Indirect Narration the words of the speaker is not exactly said in his words. What a speaker says, his words are not mentioned within the quotation marks. The speaker's words will be altered slightly.

Example: She said that Travelling was one of her hobbies.

Reporter/ Reporting Verb/ Reported Speech

Reporter The speaker or narrator is called the 'reporter'

Reporting Verb The verb used by the 'reporter' is called reporting verb.

Reported Speech Sentence enclosed within the inverted commas (".....") is called reported speech.

She said to me, 'I am learning math'.

In this sentence "She (reporter) said (reporting verb)" and 'I am learning math.' (reported speech).

Reported speech always begins with a capital letter and enclosed within the inverted commas (' ') while we change a narration from direct to indirect, the inverted commas are removed.

Some Important Rules

First of all ascertain the tense of the 'Reporting verb'.

- (a) If the reporting verb is in present or future tense. The tense of reported speech remains unchanged.
- (b) If the reporting verb changes as following

| Reporting verb in direct speech | Reporting verb in indirect speech |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Say | Say |
| Says | Says |
| Say to | Tell |
| Says to | Tells |
| Will say | Will say |
| Will say to | Will tell |
| Said | Said |

Effective Steps to Solve such Questions

Candidates are suggested to memorise the following points which are very important to solve such questions effectively.

- (1) While changing into indirect speech the personal pronouns are changed as per the following rules.
 - (a) First Person Pronoun According to subject to reporting verb.
 - (b) Second Person Pronoun According to object of reporting verb.
 - (c) Third Person Pronoun No change

Reporting Verb in the Past

- (2) If the reporting verb is in 'past' the tense of the reported speech changes as following

Tense of Reported Speech

| Direct Narration | Indirect Narration |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Present Indefinite | Past Indefinite |
| Present Continuous | Past Continuous |
| Present Perfect | Past Perfect |
| Present Perfect Continuous | Past Perfect Continuous |
| Past Indefinite | Past Perfect |
| Past Continuous | Past Perfect Continuous |
| Past Perfect | No change of tense |
| Past Perfect Continuous | No change of tense |

(Change in Future Sentences (Reported Speech

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Will/Shall | Would/Should |
| Can | Could |
| May | Might |
| Could/Should/Would/Might | No change |

(3) Change in narration is done as following

| Direct Narration | Indirect Narration |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| This | That |
| These | Those |
| Here | There |
| Hence | Thence |
| Hither | Thither |
| Now | Then |
| Ago | Before |
| Thus | So |
| Today | That day |
| Tomorrow | The next day/the following day |
| Yesterday | The previous day |
| Last week/month/year | The previous week/month/year |
| The last fort night | The previous fort night |
| The day before Yesterday | The day before the previous day |

Therefore, you should learn all the points well in order to solve the questions quickly with accuracy.

Rules for Changing Direct Speech into Indirect

1. When the reporting or principal verb is in the past tense, all present tenses of the direct are changed into the corresponding past tenses. Thus,

(a) A simple present becomes a simple past.

(Direct) Ram said, "I am happy".

(Indirect) Ram said that he was happy.

(b) A present continuous becomes a past continuous.

(Direct) He said, "My younger brother is writing an essay".

(Indirect) He said that his younger brother was writing an essay.

(c) A present perfect becomes a past perfect.

(Direct) He said, "I have completed my homework.

(Indirect) He said that he had completed his homework.

→ Shall of the future tense is changed into should. The will of the future tense is changed into would or should. As a rule, the simple past in the direct becomes the past perfect in the indirect.

(Direct) He said, "The horse died in the night".

(Indirect) He said that the horse had died in the night.

2. If the reporting verb is in the present tense, the tenses of the direct speech do not change.

3. The pronouns of the direct speech are changed, where necessary, so that their relations with the reporter and its listener rather than with the original speaker, are indicated. E.g.,

(Direct) He said to me, "I don't believe you."

(Indirect) He said he didn't believe me.

(Direct) I said to him, "I don't smoke."

(Indirect) I said I didn't smoke.

4. Words expressing nearness in time or place are generally changed into words expressing distance.
Hence,

| | | |
|------------|--------------|------------------|
| Now | Changes into | Then |
| Here | Changes into | There |
| Ago | Changes into | Before |
| Thus | Changes into | So |
| Today | Changes into | That day |
| Tomorrow | Changes into | The next day |
| Yesterday | Changes into | The day before |
| Last night | Changes into | The night before |

(Direct) She said, "I am glad to be here this evening."

(Indirect) She said that she was glad to be there that evening.

The changes do not occur if the speech is reported during the same period or at the same place.

Exclamations and Wishes: In reporting exclamations and wishes the indirect speech is introduced by some verb expressing exclamation or wish.

(Direct) He said, "Alas! I am deeply hurt."

(Indirect) He exclaimed sadly that he was deeply hurt.

(Direct) Meena said, "How brave you are!"

(Indirect) Meena exclaimed that I was very brave.

(Direct) Rakesh said, "Bravo! You have done well."

(Indirect) Rakesh applauded him, saying that he had done well.

(Direct) "So help me heaven!" he cried, I will never steal again.

(Indirect) He called upon Heaven to witness his resolve never to steal again.

Interrogatives: In reporting interrogatives, the indirect speech is introduced by some such verbs as asked, enquired etc.

When the question is not introduced by an interrogative word, the reporting verb is followed by whether or if.

(Direct) He said to me, "What are you doing?"

(Indirect) He asked me what I was doing.

(Direct) "Where do you live?" asked the stranger.

(Indirect) The stranger enquired where I lived.

(Direct) My uncle said to us, "Where are you going?"

(Indirect) My uncle enquired Where we were going.

(Direct) "Do you suppose you know better than your own father?" jeered his angry mother.

(Indirect) His angry mother jeered and asked whether he supposed that he knew better than his own father.

Commands and Requests: In reporting commands and requests, the indirect speech is introduced by some verb expressing command or request and the imperative mood is changed into the infinitive.

(Direct) Krishna said to Arjun, "Go away".

(Indirect) Krishna ordered Arjun to go away.

(Direct) He said to him, "Please wait here till I return".

(Indirect) He requested him to wait there till he returned.

(Direct) "Call the first witness", said the judge.

(Indirect) The judge commanded them to call the first witness.

(Direct) He shouted, "Let me go."

(Indirect) He shouted to them to let him go.

Directions: In the following questions, sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech.

Exercise

1. Kiran asked me, "Did you see the cricket match on television last night?"
 - (a) Kiran asked me whether I saw the cricket match on television the earlier night.
 - (b) Kiran asked me whether I had seen the cricket match on television the earlier night.
 - (c) Kiran asked me did I see the cricket match on television last night.
 - (d) Kiran asked me whether I had seen the cricket match on television last night.
2. David said to Anna, "Mona will leave for her native place tomorrow."
 - (a) David told Anna that Mona will leave for her native place tomorrow.
 - (b) David told Anna that Mona left for her native place the next day.
 - (c) David old to Anna that Mona be leaving for her native place tomorrow.
 - (d) David told Anna that Mona would leave for her native place the next day.
3. I said to him, "Why are you working so hard?"
 - (a) I asked him why he was working so hard.
 - (b) I asked him why was he working so hard.
 - (c) I asked him why he had been working so hard.
 - (d) I asked him why had he been working so hard.
4. He said to her, "What a cold day!"
 - (a) He told her that it was a cold day.
 - (b) He exclaimed that it was a cold day.
 - (c) He exclaimed sorrowfully that it was a cold day.
 - (d) He exclaimed that it was a very cold day.
5. The tailor said to him, "Will you have the suit ready by tomorrow evening?"
 - (a) The tailor asked him that he will have the suit ready by the next evening.
 - (b) The tailor asked him that he would had the suit ready by the next evening.
 - (c) The tailor asked him if he would have the suit ready by the next evening.
 - (d) The tailor asked him if he will like to have the suit ready by the next evening.
6. He said to the interviewer, "Could you please repeat the question?"
 - (a) He requested the interviewer if he could please repeat the question.
 - (b) He requested the interviewer to please repeat the question.
 - (c) He requested the interviewer to repeat the question.
 - (d) He requested the interviewer if he could repeat the question.
7. He said, "Be quiet and listen to my words."
 - (a) He urged them to be quiet and listen to his words.
 - (b) He urged them and said be quiet and listen to words.

- (c) He said they should be quiet and listen to his words.
- (d) He said you should be quiet and listen to my words.
- 8. He said to me, "I have often told you not to play with fire."
 - (a) He said that he has often been telling me not to play with fire.
 - (b) He told me that he had often told me not to play with fire.
 - (c) He reminded me that he often said to me not to play with fire.
 - (d) He said to me that he often told me not to play with fire.
- 9. The Captain said to his men, "Stand at ease."
 - (a) The Captain urged his men to stand at ease.
 - (b) The Captain wanted his men to stand at ease.
 - (c) The Captain told his men that they should stand at ease.
 - (d) The Captain commanded his men to stand at ease.
- 10. Pawan said to me. "If I hear any news, I'll phone you."
 - (a) Pawan told me that if he heard any news, he will phone me.
 - (b) Pawan told me that if he will hear any news, he will phone me.
 - (c) Pawan told me if he had heard any news, he would phone me.
 - (d) Pawan told me that if he heard any news, he would phone me.
- 11. The teacher said to Mahesh, "Congratulations! Wish you success in life."
 - (a) The teacher congratulated Mahesh and said wish you success in life.
 - (b) The teacher wished congratulations and success in life to Mahesh.
 - (c) The teacher said congratulations to Mahesh and wished him success in life.
 - (d) The teacher Mahesh and wished him success in life congratulated.
- 12. The poor examinee said, "O God, take pity on me."
 - (a) The poor examinee prayed God to take pity on him.
 - (b) The poor examinee, invoking God implored him to take pity on him.
 - (c) The poor examinee exclaimed that God take pity on him.
 - (d) The poor examine asked God to take pity on him.
- 13. "Where will you be tomorrow," I said, "in case I have to ring you?"
 - (a) I asked where you will be the next day in case I will ring hint.
 - (b) I asked where he would be the next day in case I had to ring hint.
 - (c) I said to him where he will be in case I have to ring him.
 - (d) I enquired about his whereabouts the next day in case I would have to ring up.
- 14. Seeta said to me, "Can you give me your pen?"
 - (a) Seeta asked me can I give her my pen.
 - (b) Seeta asked me if I can give me your pen.
 - (c) Seeta asked me if I could give her my pen.
 - (d) Seeta asked me if I gave her my pen.
- 15. The father warned his son that he should be beware of him.
 - (a) The father warned his son, "Beware of him!"
 - (b) The father warned his son, "Watch that chap!"
 - (c) The father warned his son. "Be careful about him."
 - (d) The father warned his son, "Don't fall into the trap."
- 16. Manna asked Rohan, "Have you sat in a trolley bus before?"
 - (a) Manna asked Rohan whether he had sat in a trolley bus earlier.
 - (b) Manna asked Rohan had he sat in a trolley bus before.
 - (c) Manna asked Rohan if he sat on a trolley bus before.
 - (d) Manna asked Rohan if he has ever sat in a trolley bus.

17. Farhan asked Geeta, "Could you lend me a hundred rupees until tomorrow?"
 - (a) Farhan asked Geeta whether she could lend him a hundred rupees until tomorrow.
 - (b) Farhan asked Geeta whether she could lend him a hundred rupees until the next day.
 - (c) Farhan asked Geeta whether she could lend me a hundred rupees until the next day.
 - (d) Farhan asked whether Geeta could lend me a hundred rupees until the next day.
18. "What about going for a swim," he said, "It's quite fine now."
 - (a) He asked me what about going for a swim as it was quite fine then.
 - (b) He proposed going for a swim as it was quite fine.
 - (c) He suggested going for a swim as it was quite fine.
 - (d) He advised me to go for a swim as it was quite fine.
19. "You can't bathe in this sea," he said to me "it's very rough."
 - (a) He said that I can't bathe in this sea because it's very rough.
 - (b) He said that you couldn't bathe in that sea if it was very rough.
 - (c) He said that I couldn't bathe in that sea as it was very rough.
 - (d) He said that you can't bathe in this sea since it was very rough.
20. Jagdish said, "We passed by a beautiful lake when we went on a trip to Goa."
 - (a) Jagdish said that they passed by a beautiful lake when they had gone on a trip to Goa.
 - (b) Jagdish said that they had passed by a beautiful lake when they went on a trip to Goa.
 - (c) Jagdish said that they had passed by a beautiful lake when they had gone on a trip to Goa.
 - (d) Jagdish said they passed by a beautiful lake when they went on a trip to Goa.
21. Ram said, "I always speak the truth."
 - (a) Ram said I always speak the truth.
 - (b) Ram said that he always speaks the truth.
 - (c) Ram said that he always spoke the truth.
 - (d) Ram said that he always had spoken the truth.
22. He said, "I don't need this pen."
 - (a) He said that he doesn't need that pen.
 - (b) He said that he didn't need this pen.
 - (c) He said that he didn't need that pen.
 - (d) He said that I didn't need that pen.
23. Ram said, "I am rich."

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ram said that I was rich. (c) Ram said that he is rich. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Ram said that he is rich. (d) Ram said that he was rich. |
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24. The teacher said, "The sun rises in the east."
 - (a) The teacher said that the sun rose in the east.
 - (b) The teacher said that the sun had risen in the east.
 - (c) The teacher said that the sun rises in the east.
 - (d) The teacher said that the sun risen in the east.
25. Sohan said to me, "We have won the match."
 - (a) Sohan told me we have won the match.
 - (b) Sohan told me if they have won the match.
 - (c) Sohan told me that they had won the match.
 - (d) Sohan said to me that they had won the match.
26. She said to me, "You lost my book."

| | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) She said to me that I lost my book, (c) She told me that I had lost her book. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (b) She told me that I lost her book. (d) She told me that she had lost my book. |
|--|---|

27. He said to me, "You can take my slate."
(a) He said to me that you could take his slate.
(b) He told me that I could take his slate.
(c) He told me that he could take my slate.
(d) He told me that I could take my slate.
28. Mohan said, "I don't smoke a cigarette."
(a) Mohan said that he didn't smoke a cigarette.
(b) Mohan said that I didn't smoke a cigarette.
(c) Mohan said that he does not smoke a cigarette.
(d) Mohan asked that he does not smoke a cigarette.
29. The old man said, "God is everywhere."
(a) The old man said that God was everywhere.
(b) The old man said that God has been everywhere.
(c) The old man asked that God is everywhere.
(d) The old man said that God is everywhere.
30. The captain said, "Alas! our foes are too strong."
(a) The captain told that Alas! our foes are too strong.
(b) The captain told him that our foes are too strong.
(c) The captain exclaimed with sorrow that their foes were very strong.
(d) The captain exclaimed with sorrow that his foes were very strong.
31. Rama says, "Mohan is ill".
(a) Rama asks that Mohan is ill.
(b) Rama tells that Mohan is ill.
(c) Rama says that Mohan is ill.
(d) None of the above
32. he said, "I am unwell."
(a) he told that he is unwell. (b) He said that he was unwell.
(c) he tells that I am unwell. (d) None of the above
33. I shall say again, "You stole Hari's book."
(a) I said again that he stole hari's book.
(b) I will say again that you stole hari's book.
(c) I shall say again that you stole hari's book.
(d) None of the above
34. The captain said, "Alas! our foes are too strong."
(a) The captain told that Alas! our foes are too strong.
(b) The captain told him that our foes are too strong.
(c) The captain exclaimed with sorrow that their foes were very strong.
(d) The captain exclaimed with sorrow that his foes were very strong.

35. He said, "I shall go as soon as possible".
 (a) He said that he would go as soon as possible.
 (b) He said that he would go as soon as it was possible.
 (c) He said he would go as soon as it was possible.
 (d) None of the above
36. He said, "By God, I am speaking the truth".
 (a) He swore by God and said that he is speaking the truth.
 (b) He said that by God I am speaking the truth.
 (c) He swore by God and said that he was speaking the truth.
 (d) None of the above
37. The teacher said, "Mrs. Indira Gandhi died in 1984."
 (a) The teacher told that Mrs. Indira Gandhi died in 1984
 (b) The teacher said that Mrs. Indira Gandhi died in 1984.
 (c) The teacher tells that Mrs. Indira Gandhi was died in 1984.
 (d) None of the above
38. He said, "She has been reading for two hours."
 (a) He told that she has been reading for two hours.
 (b) he told that she had been reading for two hours.
 (c) he said that she had been reading for two hours.
 (d) None of the above
39. He said, "God is one."
 (a) he said that god is one. (b) he tells that god in one.
 (c) he told that god in one. (d) None of the above
40. He said, "My sister was doing her work."
 (a) he told that his sister had doing her work.
 (b) he told that his sister had been doing her work.
 (c) he said that his sister had been doing her work.
 (d) None of the above
41. He said, "Sheela will have been working till morning"?
 (a) He told that Sheela would have been working till morning.
 (b) He said that Sheela would have been working till morning.
 (c) He said Sheela would have been workig till morning.
 (d) None of the above
42. Viresh said, "I must reach the office before time as the Director is to visit the factory."
 (a) Viresh said that he had to reach his office before time as the Director was to visit the factory.
 (b) Viresh told that he had to reach his office before time as the Director was to visit the factory.
 (c) Viresh said that I had to reach his office before time as the Director was to visit the factory.
 (d) None of the above
43. Convert the sentence in indirect speech to direct speech – "He exclaimed sadly that he was undone."
 (a) He said, "I am undone." (b) He said I am undone.
 (c) He said , "Alas. I am undone." (d) He said, "Alas ! I am undone."
44. Convert the direct speech to indirect – She said, "Thank you !"
 (a) She said to me thank you. (b) She said thank you to me.
 (c) She thanked me. (d) She said that thank you!

45. What is the other name of Indirect speech?
- (a) Quoted speech
 - (b) Reported speech
 - (c) Simple speech
 - (d) Principal speech
46. My cousin said, "My room-mate snored throughout the night."
- (a) My cousin told me that her room-mate snored throughout the night.
 - (b) My cousin said that her room-mate had snored throughout the night.
 - (c) My cousin felt that her room-mate may be snoring throughout the night.
 - (d) None of the above
47. Shiv said to her, "May you succeed!"
- (a) Shiv wished her success.
 - (b) Shiv told her that she might succeed.
 - (c) She prayed to God that she may succeed.
 - (d) None of the above
48. Mrs. Sharma said, "I know what it is to be depressed."
- (a) Mrs. Sharma is depressed she said.
 - (b) Mrs. Sharma said that she knew what it was to be depressed.
 - (c) Mrs. Sharma knows what it is to be depressed.
 - (d) None of the above
49. Radha said, "I work here every day."
- (a) Radha said that I work here every day.
 - (b) Radha said that she worked there everyday.
 - (c) Radha said that she worked everyday.
 - (d) None of the above
50. Ramesh said, "I went to school yesterday."
- (a) Ramesh said that he had gone to school yesterday.
 - (b) Ramesh said that he had gone to school the previous day.
 - (c) Ramesh said that he had gone to school the next day.
 - (d) None of the above

Solutions

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | d | 2. | d | 3. | a | 4. | d | 5. | c |
| 6. | d | 7. | a | 8. | b | 9. | d | 10. | d |
| 11. | d | 12. | a | 13. | b | 14. | c | 15. | a |
| 16. | a | 17. | b | 18. | A | 19. | c | 20. | c |
| 21. | c | 22. | c | 23. | d | 24. | c | 25. | c |
| 26. | c | 27. | b | 28. | a | 29. | d | 30. | c |
| 31. | b | 32. | c | 33. | c | 34. | c | 35. | b |
| 36. | c | 37. | b | 38. | c | 39. | a | 40. | b |
| 41. | b | 42. | a | 43. | d | 44. | c | 45. | b |
| 46. | b | 47. | a | 48. | b | 49. | b | 50. | b |

