

REPORTED SPEECH (INDIRECT SPEECH)

Dialogues can be expressed in three ways. These sentences are in **direct** speech.

1. Dhruva: I have won the election. (**Script form**)
2. Dhruva said, "I have won the election." (**Quote form**)
3. Speech bubbles (do not appear in the question paper). For reported speech, dialogues are selected from the **course book** only.

The following steps are to be followed while writing sentences in reported speech or indirect speech. **1. Identify the speaker and the listener.**

2. Understand the context by reading the full conversation, if needed.

3. Identify the four types of sentences as they are required while selecting the **reporting verbs** and **connectives**.

i. **Declarative sentence**— (statements)

Eg. Gonzalo: You will like it.

Reporting verb: said to.

Connective: that (sometimes optional).

Gonzalo **said to** Laura **that** she would like it.

ii. **Interrogative sentence: (1) Yes/No question.**

Eg. Laura: Do you sneeze?

Reporting verb: asked.

Connective: whether/if.

Gonzalo **asked** Laura **whether** she used to sneeze.

(2) **'Wh' question.**

Eg. Juanito: What are you doing, senor?

Reporting verb: asked.

Connective: what.

Juanito respectfully **asked** him **what** he was doing.

iii. **Imperative sentence: (usually order or a request).**

Eg. Gonzalo: Give me the book, Juanito.

Reporting verb: told (in other cases: asked, requested, offered, ordered, commanded, pleaded, suggested, demanded, directed, warned, instructed, advised, invited, urged, reminded, wanted, etc.). Connective: No connective is needed.

Gonzalo **told** Juanito to give him the book.

iv. **Exclamatory sentences**— (expressing emotions/ feelings)

Eg. Laura: What a coincidence!

Reporting verb: exclaimed (in other cases: grumbled, remarked, etc.)

Connective: that.

Laura **exclaimed that** it was a coincidence.

No reported speech sentence can convey the exact meaning of the sentence in direct speech especially when it comes to the expression of emotions. Importance should be given to expression and not the structure.

An imperative sentence can also be an exclamatory sentence.

Eg. "Get out of here!"

4. The changes in **tense** of the verbs.

The tense of the verb in a reported sentence goes one step backwards from that of the original sentence.

Present simple to past simple.

Eg Gonzalo: Juanito, you **are** late. Gonzalo said to Juanito that he **was** late.

Present continuous to past continuous.

Present perfect to past perfect. Present perfect continuous to past perfect continuous.

Past simple to past perfect. Past continuous to past perfect continuous.

Past perfect and Past perfect continuous remain unchanged.

Use **past tense** if the conversation is in script form (sentence no.1) and also if the reporting verb is in the past tense, in the case of quote form (sentence no. 2).

However, If the reporting verb (the verb which is outside the inverted commas) is in present tense, use present tense while writing it in reported speech.

Eg. Dhruva **says**, "I have won the election." Reported as: Dhruva **says** that he has won the election.

5. Pronouns in **first person** and **second person** change into **third person** in the reported speech. Eg. Laura: **I** thought **you** were taking out a telescope.

Laura said to Gonzalo that **she** thought **he** had been taking out a telescope.

6. **Demonstrative pronouns**, certain **modals**, **adverbials of place and time** undergo changes.

This - that, these—those,

Must (with exception)—had to, (all other modals into their past tense form)

Here—there,

Now—then, ago—before, today—that day,

yesterday—the previous day/ the day before, tomorrow—the next day/ the day after.

7. Remove the **inverted commas** and **commas**.

8. All the sentences in reported speech end with **full stops**.

9. Note the **inversion** of subject and verb in questions.

Gonzalo: Juanito, **have they** gone?

Gonzalo asked Juanito whether **they had** gone.

Some sample questions and answers:

1) Dona Laura: Do not remain more than ten minutes.

Petra : Very well, signora (walks toward right).

Dona Laura: Wait a moment.

Petra : What does the signora wish?

Dona Laura: Give me the bread crumbs.

Speaker	Reporting verb	listener	connective	verb		pronoun	
Dona Laura	told	Petra		not to remain	more than ten minutes.		
Petra	agreed with	Dona Laura			and walked toward the right.		
Dona Laura	told	Petra		to wait	for a moment.		
Petra	asked	her	what			she	wished.
Dona Laura	told	Petra		to give		her	the breadcrumbs.

2) Dona Laura : (Indignantly) Look out.

Don Gonzalo: Are you speaking to me, senora?

Dona Laura : Yes, to you.

Don Gonzalo: What do you wish?

Dona Laura : You have scared away the birds.

Speaker	Reporting verb	listener	connective	verb		pronoun	
*Dona Laura	indignantly told	Don Gonzalo		to look out.			
Don Gonzalo	respectfully asked	Dona Laura	whether			she	was speaking to him.
Dona Laura	replied	to him	that			she	was speaking to him.
Don Gonzalo	asked	her	what			she	wished.
Dona Laura	replied		that			he	had scared away the birds.

*Dona Laura angrily gave out a warning cry.

Questions:

1. Minister: Why do you not run away? There is no guard to keep you. The prince will not mind.

Criminal: I know it. But I have nowhere to go.

2. Minister: The cost of execution will be sixteen thousand francs.

Prince :The wretch is not worth the money. Can't it be done, somehow cheaper? Sixteen thousand francs is more than two francs a head on the whole population. The people won't stand it.

3. Prince: You must find some cheaper way of dealing with this rascal. The present plan is too expensive.

First Minister: In my opinion, we must dismiss the guard.

Second Minister: Then the fellow will run away.

First Minister: Let him run away.

4. Petra: I see him over there waiting for me.

Dona Laura: Do not remain more than ten minutes.

Petra: I will be back soon.

Dona Laura: Wait a moment.

Petra: What does the senora wish?

5. Don Gonzalo: I want a bench to myself.

Juanito: There is none.

Don Gonzalo: That one over there is mine.

Juanito: There are three priests sitting there.

Don Gonzalo: Rout them out.

6. Dona Laura: Do you use a shoe brush as a handkerchief?

Don Gonzalo: What right have you to criticize my actions?

Dona Laura: A neighbour's right.

Don Gonzalo: I do not care to listen to nonsense.

Dona Laura: You are very polite.

7. Don Gonzalo: Do you mind my reading aloud?

Dona Laura: You can read as loud as you please

Don Gonzalo: Can you read without glasses?

Dona Laura: Yes, I can.

Don Gonzalo: I envy your eyesight.

8. Dona Laura: Will you go to your bench tomorrow?

Don Gonzalo: I will come to your bench.

Dona Laura: Do bring something for pigeons.

Don Gonzalo: I'll surely bring the crumbs.

Dona Laura: thank you.

9. Dona Laura: Have you been in America?

Don Gonzalo: Several times.

Dona Laura: You must have gone with Columbus. Don Gonzalo: I am old. But I didn't know Ferdinand and Isabella.

10. Alifano: What is your first literacy reading?

Borges: My first reading is Grimm's fairy tales in an English version. Alifano:

Where did you read it?

Borges: I read in my father's library. It taught me more than any high school.

11. Alifano: What is blindness to you?

Borges: It is a way of life. In my case, the visible world has moved away from my eyes.

Alifano: Have you thought of writing a book on the history of the book. Borges: It is an excellent idea. I will keep it in my mind.

12. Roof: I work for Marcus Ibe.

POP Campaigner: We have plenty of work to do tonight. Are you taking this or not? Roof: Will it not be heard outside this room?

POP Campaigner: We are after votes, not gossips.

13. Roof: Do not forget. Our sign is motor-car.

Woman: Is it like Marcus's car?

Roof: It is the same car. Don't look at the other with the man's head.

14. POP Campaigner: The iyi comes from Mbanta. Swear on it.

Roof: I will cast my paper for Maduka. But Maduka has no chance against Marcus. POP

Campaigner: Maduka gives out pounds, not shillings.

A Sunny Morning:

1. Dona Laura: I am so glad to be here. I feared my seat would be occupied. What a beautiful morning!

Petra: The sun is hot.

Dona Laura: Yes. You are only twenty.

Ans: Dona Laura said that she was so glad to be there and that she had feared, her seat would be occupied. She further said that it was a beautiful morning.

Petra said that the sun is/was hot.

Dona Laura replied in the positive/affirmative and pointed out that she was only twenty.

2. Dona Laura: Go, if you wish to chat with your guard.

Petra: He is not mine, senora; he belongs to the park.

Dona Laura: Go find him, but remain within calling distance.

Ans: Dona Laura asked Petra to go, if she wished to chat with her guard.

Petra replied that he was not hers and that he belonged to the park.

Dona Laura asked her to go find him, but to remain within calling distance.

3. Don Gonzalo: Are you speaking to me, senora?

Dona Laura: Yes, to you.

Don Gonzalo: What do you wish?

Dona Laura: You have scared away the birds who were feeding on my crumbs.

Don Gonzalo: What do I care about the birds?

Ans: Don Gonzalo asked respectfully if she was speaking to him.

Dona Laura replied affirmatively that she was.

Don Gonzalo what she wished.

Dona Laura replied that he had scared away the birds who had been feeding on her crumbs.

Don Gonzalo replied what he cared about the birds.

4. Petra: I see him over there waiting for me.

Dona Laura: Do not remain more than ten minutes.

Dona Laura: Wait a minute.

Petra: What does the senora wish?

Ans: Petra said that she saw him over there waiting for her.

Dona Laura told her not to remain more than ten minutes.

Dona Laura asked her to wait a minute.

Petra asked what the senora wished.

5. Dona Laura: Give me the bread crumbs.

Petra: I don't know what is the matter with me.

Dona Laura: I do. Your head is where your heart is – with the guard.

Ans: Dona Laura asked Petra to give her the bread crumbs.

Petra said that she didn't know what the matter was with her.

Dona Laura replied that she did and that her head was where your heart was – with the guard.

6. Juanito: You can sit here, senor. There is only a lady.

Don Gonzalo: I won't. I want a bench to myself.

Juanito: But there is none.

Don Gonzalo: That one over there is mine.

Ans: Juanito respectfully said that he could there and there was only a lady.

Don Gonzalo said that he would not and that he wanted a bench to himself. Juanito said that there was none.

Don Gonzalo replied that one over there was his.

7. Juanito: There are three priests sitting there.

Don Gonzalo: Rout them out. Have they gone?

Juanito: No, indeed. They are talking.

Don Gonzalo: Just as if they were glued to the seat. No hope of their leaving. Come this way, Juanito.

Ans: Juanito said that there were three priests sitting there.

Don Gonzalo asked Juanito to rout them out and asked if they had gone.

Juanito replied in the negative and said that they were talking.

Don Gonzalo replied just as if they had been glued to the seat and pointed out that there was no hope of their leaving. He asked Juanito to come that way.

8. Dona Laura: Look out!

Don Gonzalo: Are you speaking to me, senora?

Dona Laura: yes, to you.

Don Gonzalo: What do you wish?

Dona Laura: You have scared away the birds who were feeding on my crumbs.

Ans: Dona Laura asked Don Gonzalo to look out.

Don Gonzalo asked Dona Laura if she was speaking to her.

Dona Laura replied affirmatively that she was.

Don Gonzalo asked what she wished.

Dona Laura replied that she had scared away the birds who had been feeding on her crumbs.

9. Don Gonzalo: What do I care about the birds?

Dona Laura: But I do.

Don Gonzalo: This is a public park.

Dona Laura: Then why do you complain that the priests have taken your bench?

Ans: Don Gonzalo asked what she cared about the birds.

Dona Laura replied that she did.

Don Gonzalo said that was a public park.

Dona Laura asked then why he complained that the priests had taken his bench.

10. Don Gonzalo: Senora, we have not met. I cannot imagine why you take the liberty of addressing me. Come, Juanito.

Dona Laura: What an ill-natured man! Why must people get so fussy and cross when they reach a certain age. I am glad. He lost that bench too. Serves him right for scaring the birds. He is furious. Find a seat if you can.

Ans: Don Gonzalo respectfully said that they had not met and that he could not imagine why she took the liberty of addressing her and also asked Juanito to come.

Dona Laura said that he was ill-natured man. She felt why people had to get so fussy and cross when they reached a certain age. Dona Laura felt that she was glad that he had lost that bench too and that served him right for scaring the birds. She noticed that he was furious and asked him to find a seat if he could.

11. Don Gonzalo: Have the priests gone yet, Juanito?

Juanito: No, indeed. They are talking.

Don Gonzalo: The authorities must place more benches here for sunny mornings. Well, I must resign myself and sit on the bench with the old lady.

Ans: Don Gonzalo asked Juanito if the priests had gone yet.

Juanito replied in the negative and said that they were talking.

Don Gonzalo said that the authorities had to

place more benches there for sunny mornings and well, that he had to resign himself and sit on the bench with the old lady.

12. Dona Laura: What, you here again?

Don Gonzalo: I repeat that we have not met.

Dona Laura: I was responding to your salute.

Don Gonzalo: 'Good morning' should be answered by 'Good morning', and that is all you should have said.

Ans: Dona Laura asked what, if he was there again.

Don Gonzalo said that he repeated that they had not met.

Dona Laura replied that she had been responding to his salute.

Don Gonzalo firmly pointed out that 'Good morning' should be answered by 'Good morning', and that was all she should have said.

13. Dona Laura: You should have asked permission to sit on this bench, which is mine.

Don Gonzalo: The benches here are public property.

Dona Laura: You said the one the priests have was yours.

Don Gonzalo: I have nothing more to say. She ought to be at home knitting and counting her beads.

Ans: Dona Laura said that he should have asked permission to sit on that bench, which was hers.

Don Gonzalo replied that the benches there were public property.

Dona Laura said that he had said the one the priests had was his.

Don Gonzalo replied that he had nothing more to say and she ought to be at home knitting and counting her beads.

14. Dona Laura: Don't grumble any more. I am not going to leave just to please you.

Don Gonzalo: If the ground were sprinkled a little it would be an improvement.

Dona Laura: Do you use your handkerchief as a shoe brush?

Don Gonzalo: What right have you to criticize my actions.

Dona Laura: A neighbour's right.

Ans: Dona Laura asked Gonzalo not to grumble anymore and that she was not going to leave just to please him.

Don Gonzalo said that if the ground had been sprinkled a little that would be an improvement.

Dona Laura asked if he used his handkerchief as a shoe brush.

Don Gonzalo asked what right she had to criticize his actions.

Dona Laura replied that it was a neighbour's right.

15. Don Gonzalo: I do not care to listen to nonsense.

Dona Laura: You are very polite.

Don Gonzalo: Pardon me, senora, but never interfere with what does not concern you.

Dona Laura: I generally say what I think.

Don Gonzalo: Juanito, give me the book.

Ans: Don Gonzalo said that he did not care to listen to nonsense.

Dona Laura said that he was very polite.

Don Gonzalo asked her to pardon him but never to interfere with what did not concern her.

Dona Laura said that she generally said what she thought.

Don Gonzalo asked Juanito to give him the book.

16. Dona Laura: I thought you were taking out a telescope.

Don Gonzalo: Was that you?

Dona Laura: Your sight must be keen.

Don Gonzalo: Keener than yours is.

Ans: Dona Laura said that she had thought he had been taking out a telescope.

Don Gonzalo retorted if that had been her.

Dona Laura replied that his sight must be keen.

Don Gonzalo replied that was keener than hers.

17. Don Gonzalo: Every Sunday, I take my gun and dog and go to one of the estates near Aravaca and kill time.

Dona Laura: Yes, kill time. That is all you kill.

Don Gonzalo: Do you think so? I could show you a wild boar's head in my study.

Dona Laura: I could show you a tiger's skin in my boudoir. What does that prove?

Don Gonzalo: Please allow me to read.

Ans: Don Gonzalo said that every Sunday, he took his gun and dog and went to one of the estates near Aravaca and killed time.

Dona Laura replied positively that he killed time and that was all he killed.

Don Gonzalo asked if she thought so. He also pointed out that he could show her a wild boar's head in her study.

Dona Laura replied that she could show him a tiger's skin in her boudoir and asked what that proved.

Don Gonzalo requested Dona to allow her to read.

18. Don Gonzalo: First, I will take a pinch of snuff. Will you have some?

Dona Laura: If it is good.

Don Gonzalo: It is of the finest. You will like it.

Dona Laura: It clears my head.

Ans: Don Gonzalo said that he would take a pinch of snuff first. He asked Dona if she would have some.

Dona Laura replied If that was good.

Don Gonzalo said that was of the finest and that she would like that.

Dona Laura said that the snuff cleared her head.

19. Dona Laura: Do you sneeze?

Don Gonzalo: Yes, senora, three times.

Dona Laura: And so do I. What a coincidence!

Dona Laura: The snuff has made peace between us.

Don Gonzalo: You will excuse me if I read aloud?

Ans: Dona Laura asked if he sneezed.

Don Gonzalo replied positively that he did three times.

Dona Laura said that so did she and exclaimed that it was a coincidence.

Dona Laura said that the snuff had made peace between them.

Don Gonzalo said that she would excuse him if he read aloud.

20. Dona Laura: You cannot imagine how it affects me to see you reading with all those glasses.

Don Gonzalo: Can you read without any?

Dona Laura: Certainly.

Don Gonzalo: You are jesting.

Dona Laura: Pass me the book then.

Don Gonzalo: I envy your wonderful eye sight.

Ans: Dona Laura said that she could not imagine how that affected her to see him reading with all those glasses.

Don Gonzalo asked Dona if she could read without any.

Dona Laura confidently said that she could.

Don Gonzalo said that she was jesting.

Dona Laura asked Don to pass her the book then.

Don Gonzalo replied that he envied her wonderful eye sight.

21. Dona Laura: I know every word by heart.

Don Gonzalo: I am fond of good verses. I even composed some in my youth.

Dona Laura: Good ones?

Don Gonzalo: Of all kinds. I was a great friend of Espronceda, Zorilla, Becquer, and others. I first met Zorilla in America.

Ans: Dona Laura said that she knew every word by heart.

Don Gonzalo replied that he was fond of good verses and that he had even composed some in his youth.

Dona Laura jestingly asked if they were good ones.

Don Gonzalo replied that they were of all kinds. He pointed out that he had been a great friend of Espronceda, Zorilla, Becquer, and others and that he had first met Zorilla in America.

22. Dona Laura: Have you been in America?

Don Gonzalo: Several times. The first time I went I was only six years old.

Dona Laura: You must have gone with Columbus in one of his caravels!

Don Gonzalo: Not quite as bad as that. I am old, but I did not know Ferdinand and Isabella.

Ans: Dona Laura asked Don if he had been in America.

Don Gonzalo replied affirmatively that he had several times. He further said that the first time he had gone he had been only six years old.

Dona Laura: mockingly exclaimed that he must have gone with Columbus in one of his caravels!

Don Gonzalo replied that it was not quite as bad as that and said that he was old, but he had not known Ferdinand and Isabella.