

Reported speech



When we tell people what somebody said or thought, we often use indirect speech.

Tenses and pronouns (*I, you* etc) change in indirect speech if the time and speaker change.

For example, present tenses become past; *I* may become *he* or *she*; *my* may become *his* or *her*.

SOMEBODY SAID/THOUGHT	INDIRECT SPEECH
'I'm happy.'	Bill said that he was happy. (NOT Bill said that I'm happy.)
'I have a problem.'	I thought that I had a problem. (NOT I thought that I have a problem.)
'She likes me.'	He knew that she liked him.
'My feet are cold.'	She said her feet were cold.

We often leave out **that**, especially after common verbs like *say, think*.

Bill said he was really happy. I thought it was a great party.

1 Put in the correct pronouns (*I* etc) or possessives (*my* etc).

- ▶ 'She likes me.' He knew she liked him.
- 1 'I speak French.' He said spoke French.
- 2 'I'm sorry.' She said was sorry.
- 3 'Kate phoned me.' She said Kate had phoned
- 4 'We want our money.' They said wanted money.
- 5 'I'm tired.' He said was tired.
- 6 'I can't help you.' She told me she couldn't help
- 7 'We're leaving.' They said were leaving.
- 8 'I've lost my coat.' He said had lost coat.
- 9 'I like my job.' She told me liked job.
- 10 'Where are our tickets?' They asked where tickets were.

Note the difference between *say* and *tell*.

Tell must have a personal object: we **tell somebody something**.

She **told me** I was late. (NOT ~~She told I was late.~~)

They **told Anna** the wrong time. (NOT ~~They told the wrong time to Anna.~~)

Say doesn't need a personal object: we **say something (to somebody)**.

She **said** I was late. (NOT ~~She said me I was late.~~)

I **said nothing** to the police. (NOT ~~I said the police nothing.~~)

2 Circle the correct answer.

- 1 I ~~said~~ / told the driver I wanted to stop.
- 2 My mother ~~said~~ / told there was a letter for me.
- 3 Everybody ~~said~~ / told I looked beautiful.
- 4 Why did you ~~say~~ / tell the lessons were expensive?
- 5 Ross ~~said~~ / told the waiter he couldn't pay.
- 6 I didn't ~~say~~ / tell Peter that I was going away.
- 7 Nobody ~~said~~ / told me that the shop was closed.
- 8 Mia ~~said~~ / told that she would wait at the bus stop.

TENSE CHANGES

When we tell people what somebody said in the past, there is a time difference.

(For example, somebody said something on Sunday, and I tell you about it on Monday.)

Because of this, tenses usually change as follows:

DIRECT SPEECH ON SUNDAY	TENSE CHANGE	INDIRECT SPEECH ON MONDAY
<i>The children are in Ireland.</i>	AM/ARE/IS → WAS/WERE	<i>Karen said her children were in Ireland.</i>
<i>My TV isn't working.</i>		<i>He said his TV wasn't working.</i>
<i>I have a meeting at 4.00.</i>	HAVE/HAS → HAD	<i>She said she had a meeting at 4.00.</i>
<i>Sue has passed her exam.</i>		<i>Sally told me Sue had passed her exam.</i>
<i>I will probably be late.</i>	WILL → WOULD	<i>I thought I would probably be late.</i>
<i>You can have three tickets.</i>	CAN → COULD	<i>The man said I could have three tickets.</i>
<i>It doesn't matter, Martin.</i>	DO/DOES → DID	<i>I told Martin it didn't matter.</i>
<i>The train leaves at 6.00.</i>	SIMPLE PRESENT → SIMPLE PAST	<i>The timetable said the train left at 6.00.</i>
<i>We all speak English.</i>		<i>She said they all spoke English.</i>
<i>I forgot my keys.</i>	SIMPLE PAST → PAST PERFECT	<i>He said he had forgotten his keys.</i>

3 Rewrite the sentences in indirect speech, changing the tenses. Begin *He/She/They said ...*

► SALLY: 'I'm tired.' *She said (that) she was tired.*

1 ANNA: 'My sister needs a car.'

2 DANIEL: 'I have to phone Andrew.'

3 MARY: 'Nobody wants to help me.'

4 HELEN: 'The radio doesn't work.'

5 BEN: 'I will be in Paris in July.'

6 MIKE: 'I like the red sweater.'

7 DAVID: 'I can't swim.'

8 ALICE: 'My parents are travelling.'

9 MARIA: 'The lessons are very good.'

10 BRAD AND AMY: 'We haven't heard from Joseph.'

4 Look at the picture to see what John thought when he was small. Write his thoughts in indirect speech.

He thought animals could talk.

ANIMALS CAN TALK. CATS HAVE NINE LIVES.

MY FATHER KNOWS EVERYTHING.

SPAGHETTI GROWS ON TREES.

THE TEACHER LIVES IN THE SCHOOL.

I WILL BE RICH ONE DAY.

MY MOTHER HAS ALWAYS BEEN OLD.



5 What did you think when you were small? Write three or more sentences.

1

2

3

4

5

Getting water in dry places

Do you know?

- People on every continent have problems with getting water.
- 2.8 billion people don't have enough water for at least one month every year.
- Over 1 billion people don't have ¹access to clean drinking water.

1 Look at the photos on this page. What kind of places are these? What do you think the weather is like there?

Ice stupas

What are they? Ice towers or ²artificial ³glaciers

Where are they? Ladakh, India, a desert at 3,000 m in the Himalayas

What problem do people have there? There's only 50 mm of rain in a year. People get water for ⁴watering their fields from the glaciers, which ⁵melt in the spring. In the last few years, the temperatures in this region went up, so glaciers began to melt too quickly. People don't get as much water as in the past.

How do they work? The ice stupas are made of ⁶pipes which take water from the ⁷streams high in the mountains. The water goes through the pipes, and in winter the ice stupas freeze. Their special shape allows them to melt only when it's warm in spring. Then they give about 5,000 l of water a day, which people use to water their fields.



Fog catchers

What is it? Huge nets which collect fog

Where is it? Villages around Mount Boutmezguida in the Anti-Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Other places where people use fog catchers are Chile, Peru, Ghana, Eritrea, South Africa and California, USA.

What problem do people have there? Anti-Atlas is a dry area where people don't have much drinking water. There's only 13 mm of rain a year. Women and children have to walk for four hours a day to bring drinking water for their families.

How does it work? In the Anti-Atlas, there are 140 foggy days a year. People collect water from the fog using special nets. When there's a lot of water on the nets, it gets heavy and falls into special ⁸containers under the nets. This method allows people to collect about 6,000 l of water a day, which they use for drinking.



2 **VOCABULARY** Choose the correct definition for the highlighted words in the article.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 A money to buy something | B a possibility to use or have |
| 2 A unnatural, not real | B very big |
| 3 A lake in the mountains | B ice on the mountain |
| 4 A help plants grow | B give plants liquid |
| 5 A when ice changes into water | B when water changes into ice |
| 6 A a long, thin tube for water or gas | B a small box for water or gas |
| 7 A a small area of water by the sea | B a small and narrow river |
| 8 A a type of box for keeping things | B a place under the ground |

3 Read the article again. Answer the questions.

- 1 Which solution for getting water do people use in different countries?
- 2 What do people do with the water they collect in ice stupas?
- 3 Why can't people in Ladakh use their traditional way of getting water?
- 4 Why do people in the Anti-Atlas need fog catchers?
- 5 How did people in the villages around Mount Boutmezguida get water when there weren't any fog catchers?
- 6 Which invention helps people get more water?

4 Choose the correct alternative.

The article is about the people who live in the ¹mountains / islands in India and Morocco. They live in different countries, but they have the same ²language / problem – there is very little ³sun / rain. There isn't enough ⁴land to grow food / water to drink, so the people have invented creative ways of ⁵using / collecting water. In the Ladakh, they have a system of ⁶roads / pipes called stupas to collect water from ⁷fog / streams in the mountains. In the Anti-Atlas mountains in Morocco, they have 140 days a year of ⁸fog / sun a year and they use special ⁹nets / pipes to catch the water.