

Rule 1 Tense

In reported speech, the tense of the verb in the direct speech is often changed to reflect the time of reporting.

Direct Speech

He said, "I am reading a book."

Reported Speech

He said that he was reading a book.



Note that the present tense "am" in the direct speech is changed to past tense "was" in the reported speech.

Rule 2 Pronoun

The pronouns in direct speech may need to be changed in reported speech depending on who the speaker and the listener are.

Direct Speech

She said, "I will meet you at the mall."

Reported Speech

She said that she would meet me at the mall.



The pronoun "I" in the direct speech is changed to "she" and "you" is changed to "me" in the reported speech.

Rule 3 Report

We use reporting verbs like "say," "ask," "tell," "exclaim," and "whisper" to indicate who is speaking. The choice of the reporting verb can also indicate the tone or mood.

Direct Speech

"I won the game!"

Reported Speech

He exclaimed that he had won the game.



Note that "exclaimed" is used to show excitement or enthusiasm in the reported speech.

Rule 4 Modal

Modal verbs like "can," "will," "shall," "may," and "must" may need to be changed in reported speech.

Direct Speech

He said, "I can cook tomato soup."

Reported Speech

He said that he could cook tomato soup.

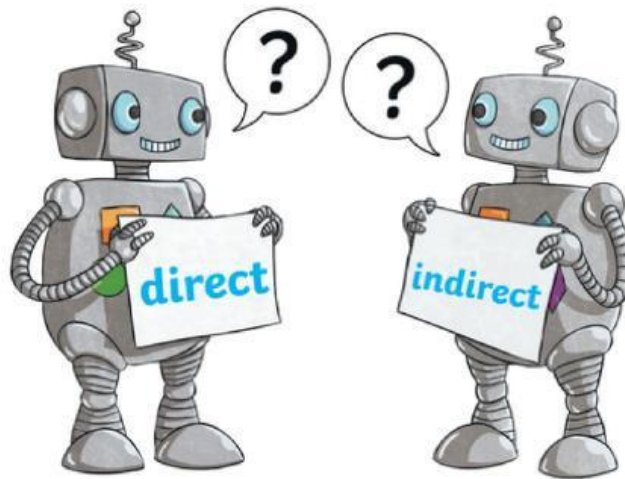


Note that the modal verb "can" in the direct speech is changed to "could" in the reported speech.

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
"I am hungry," she said.	She said that she was hungry.
"I will go tomorrow," he said.	He said that he would go the next day .
"I like apples," they said.	They said that they liked apples.
"Can you help me?" he asked.	He asked if I could help him.

Tip:

- today → that day
- tomorrow → the next day
- yesterday → the previous day
- now → then



Practice Activity:

◆ Rewrite these sentences from direct to indirect speech.

1. "I am reading a book," said Sarah.

2. "We will go to the park," said the children.

3. "Can I borrow your pen?" asked John.

4. "I finished my homework yesterday," said Thandi.

5. "It is raining now," said the teacher.

 Turn these sentences into direct speech.

1. He said that he was tired.

2. She said that she would phone her mother.

3. They said that they were going to the concert.

4. I asked if she could help me.

5. The boy said that he had lost his bag.

 Draw a line to match the direct and indirect (reported) speech forms.

Direct speech

1. Present simple ☐
2. Present continuous ☐
3. Past simple ☐
4. 'will' ☐
5. 'can' ☐
6. 'tomorrow' ☐

Reported speech

- ☐ a. Past perfect
- ☐ b. Past simple
- ☐ c. Past continuous
- ☐ d. 'could'
- ☐ e. 'the next day'
- ☐ f. 'would'

