

Direct and Indirect speech activities

1. Change these sentences from direct speech to indirect speech. Use a different saying verb in each of your new sentences.

a. The man at the door said to us, 'take off your muddy boots!'

b. 'I shall mend your bike tomorrow' say dad.

c. 'Is the picture in the window for sale?' asked the customer.

d. 'Do not go out until you feel better,' the doctor said to grandma.

e. 'When did the accident happen?' asked the Reporter.

f. 'The train to Springfield,' the station master said to me, 'does not stop here.'

g. 'Help yourselves, everyone,' said our Hostess.

h. 'The dog cannot hear my commands,' she said, 'because it is deaf.'

2. Change these sentences from indirect speech to direct speech, putting the same verb in the middle of four of the sentences and at the end of the other four. You should invert the subject and verb wherever it is correct to do so.

a. Jack asked us what we were laughing at.

b. Mom said she could not make any bread because she had no flour.

c. I said that I had last seen my brother 2 weeks earlier.

d. The policeman asked us if we had seen anything suspicious or heard any strange noises.

e. The guide told us not to stand too close to the edge of the Cliff.

f. He said that his father was a doctor and his mother was a teacher.

g. The captain told me to go and lie down in my cabin I felt seasick.

h. Aunt Jane said she would phone us as soon as she got off the train.

3. Rewrite this passage, transforming five of the sentences. You should use each of the following methods of transformation once.

- Using a different connector
- changing passive to active voice
- changing active to passive voice
- changing direct to indirect speech
- changing indirect to direct speech

Jane was walking upstairs when she heard a strange noise. It was coming from a room that the family used as a junk room. All kinds of unwanted items were kept in there. Jane's mother often said, 'we ought to clear this room out and sell some of the things we don't need.' Everyone agreed that this was a good idea; however, none of them ever put it into practice.

Jane cautiously opened the door of the room. The noise was coming from inside the large empty box by the open window. A bird had flown in and had landed in the box. It was anxiously flapping its wings because it could not get out again. Jane told the bird not to panic. Carefully picking up the box, she tipped it towards the open window so that the bird could fly away.
