MINJI TOWN
Enjoy Learning English

DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECH (INDIRECT SPEECH)

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.

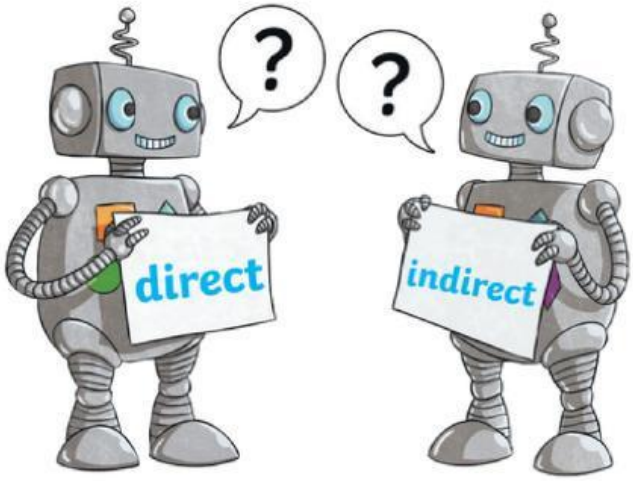
Note that the modal verb "can" in the direct speech is changed to "could" in the reported speech.

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS



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.

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECH / (INDIRECT SPEECH)

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				Reported speech
1.	Present simple	o	o	a.	Past perfect
2.	Present continuous	o	o	b.	Past simple
3.	Past simple	o	o	c.	Past continuous
4.	'will'	o	o	d.	'could'
5.	'can'	o	o	e.	'the next day'
6.	'tomorrow'	o	o	f.	'would'

LIVEWORKSHEETS