

# 20 Direct and Indirect Speech



## THINK



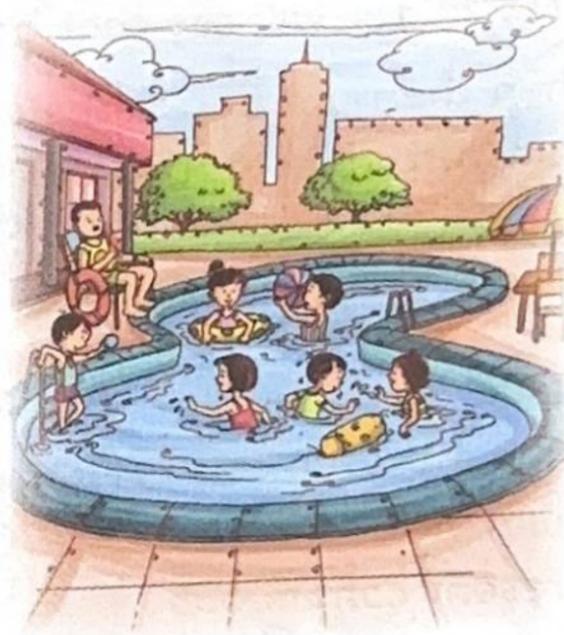
Collaboration



Problem Solving and Decision Making

Read the sentences.

- 'I want to go swimming,' said Vasu.
- He said that he could not stand staying indoors all day.
- 'I thought you had homework to do,' said his mother.
- 'Oh Maa,' said Vasu, 'I've almost finished it.'
- Vasu's mother said that he could take an hour off.



Which of those sentences do you think are in direct speech and which in indirect speech? Why? Discuss in groups of four.

## LEARN

### Direct and Indirect Speech: Rules

Read this set of sentences.

- Aditya said, 'I bought a new racquet yesterday.'
- Aditya said that he had bought a new racquet the day before.

In the first sentence, the message of the speaker is conveyed in his own words, without any change. This is called **direct speech**.

In the second sentence, someone else reports the message of the speaker in the former's own words. This is known as **indirect speech**.

Both sentences, of course, say the same thing. Note the differences.

- The inverted commas of the first sentence have been removed in the second.
- The conjunction **that** has been added in the second sentence.
- The pronoun **I** in the first sentence has been changed to **he** in the second.

A  
5/1/26

Direct - Indirect Speech

\* Direct speech has comma. [ ' ' ]

\* Indirect speech does not have comma. [ ]

← TIME TRANSFORMATION →

- 1) Now - then
- 2) Today - That Day
- 3) These - Those
- 4) Yesterday - The Day Before
- 5) Here - there
- 6) tomorrow - next day
- 7) This - that
- 8) tonight - that night

## Possessive Adjectives and Personal Pronouns

Possessive adjectives and personal pronouns in the first person change according to the subject of the reporting verb.

I said, 'I have completed my work.' → I said that I had completed my work.

You said, 'I have completed my work.' → You said that you had completed your work.

She said, 'I have completed my work.' → She said that she had completed her work.

Possessive adjectives and personal pronouns in the second person change according to the object of the reporting verb.

Farhan said to me, 'You have completed your work.' → Farhan told me that I had completed my work.

Farhan said to you, 'You have completed your work.' → Farhan told you that you had completed your work.

Farhan said to her, 'You have completed your work.' → Farhan told her that she had completed her work.

Possessive adjectives and personal pronouns in the third person undergo no change when converted to indirect speech.

Rupali said to the children, 'They have completed their work.'

Rupali said to the children that they had completed their work.

## Words Expressing Time and Place

When the reporting verb is in the past tense, words expressing time and place also change accordingly.

- now – then
- today – that day
- or – following day
- these – those
- yesterday – the previous day or the day before
- here – there
- tomorrow – the next day
- this – that
- tonight – that night



# PRACTISE

A. Rewrite the sentences with proper punctuation and capitalisation. State whether they are in direct speech (D) or indirect speech (I).

1. where is the car he asked

'Where is the car?' he asked.

D

2. the journalist said that he had reported the event

The journalist said that he had reported the event.

I

3. father said that he was going to London the next day

Father said that he was going to London

I

4. priya says that she will never miss her classes

Priya says that she will never miss her

I

5. mrs singh said that she must buy vegetables that day

Mrs Singh said that she must buy vegetables

I

B. Change the sentences from direct speech to indirect speech.

1. 'I am reading a book,' he explained.

He explained that he was reading a book.

2. Rumi said, 'The sale is already online.'

Rumi said that the sale was already online.

3. 'I am going to Gujarat,' he told me.

He told me that he was going to Gujarat.

4. Arun said, 'I am going to sing at the concert tomorrow.'

Arun said that he was going to sing at the concert

5. She said, 'I like to read books.'

She said that she liked to read books.

6. My father told me, 'Chew your food carefully.'

My father told me to chew my food carefully.



C. Change the sentences from indirect speech to direct speech.



1. Chand said that she was participating in the ballet competition.

Chand said, 'She is participating in the ballet competition.'

2. Kanchan said that she was in the park.

Kanchan said, 'I was in the park.'

3. Pushpa said that she liked the film.

Pushpa said, 'I like the film!'

4. Minnie said that she was searching for her lost badge since the week before.

Minnie said, 'I am searching for my lost badge since last week.'

5. The speaker told us to listen to our inner voice.

The speaker said to us, 'Listen to your inner voice.'

6. Abir said that he plays a game of football if he is upset.

Abir said, 'I play a game of football if I am upset.'



## LEARN

### Reporting Verbs: Told and Said

Notice the reporting verbs in these sentences.

- Runa **told** Joy to go to the dining hall.
- Runa **said** that she ate lunch at home.

The reporting verb **told** is used when the receiver of the information (Joy) is mentioned. The reporting verb **said** is used when the receiver of the information is not mentioned.



## PRACTISE

D. Tick (✓) the correct sentences in these pairs.

1. Ranjana said that the food there was excellent.

Ranjana told that the food there was excellent.



2. Geetu told Meenu that the film was very scary.

Geetu said Meenu that the film was very scary.

3. He said to me that he would meet me.

He told me that he would meet me.



### E. Rewrite these conversations in indirect speech.

1. 'What are you doing here, Mallika?'

'I am making an album of my holiday in Goa, Asha.'

Asha asked Mallika what she was doing there. Mallika replied that she was making an album of her holiday in Goa.

2. 'Madam, please make way for the old gentleman,' said the guard.

'Definitely. Please take your time,' Nalini replied.

The guard requested Nalini to kindly make way for the old man. Nalini replied that she definitely would and asked

the gentleman to take the time he needed.

3. Mallika asked, 'Do you know where Mother is, Nikhil?'

'She is at the club. She and Ms Nayar are going to the football match tonight.'

Mallika asked Nikhil if he knew where their mother was.

Nikhil said that she was at the club. She and Ms Nayar were going to the football match that night.



**PLAY**



Creative Thinking



Experiential Learning



Art Integration

I. Work in pairs and draw two cartoon characters. Create a storyboard of six frames using speech bubbles for dialogues.



7/1/26  
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