



Lesson 47.

Direct & Indirect speech



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Direct & Indirect Speech

Direct speech is a report of the exact words used by a speaker or writer. Contrast with indirect speech. Also called direct discourse. Direct speech is usually placed inside quotation marks and accompanied by a reporting verb, signal phrase, or quotative frame:

I said, "It is June."

Indirect speech - when we tell other people what someone else told us, it is called indirect or reported speech. We use reporting verbs to introduce the information that was spoken previously. The most common so-called "reporting verbs" are **say** and **tell**. When we use **tell**, we need to use another person's name, or a personal pronoun representing him or her, as an indirect object:

I said that it was June.

Direct & Indirect Speech

The transition of direct speech to indirect speech

All personal and possessive pronouns should be changed depending on the person from whom the story is being told:

Tom and Bob told me, "We need your dictionary."

Tom and Bob told me that they need my dictionary.

All demonstrative pronouns and adverbs of time and place in the relative clause must be changed within the meaning of the sentence:

this → that
these → those
now → then
today → that day
tomorrow → next day

the day after tomorrow → 2 days later
yesterday → the day before
the day before yesterday → 2 days before
ago → before
here → there

Direct & Indirect Speech

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Examples:

She told me, "I will come to see you tomorrow."

She told me she would come to see me the next day.

Common questions are introduced by the conjunctions **if** and **whether**:

I asked, "Have you seen my pen?"

I asked him if he had seen my pen.

Direct & Indirect Speech

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Special questions are introduced with question words:

He wondered: “Who on earth will buy this junk?”

He wondered who on earth would buy that junk.

A short answer to the question of indirect speech is introduced by the conjunctions **that** without the words **yes** / **no**:

She answered, “Yes, I do.”

She answered that she did.

Direct & Indirect Speech

The transition of direct speech to indirect speech

Imperative sentences in indirect speech are used with the words to say, to tell, to order, to ask, to beg, and the verb in the imperative mood changes to the infinitive form:

Mom told me, "Clear your room."

Mom told me to clear my room.

He said, "Don't run in the corridor."

He said not to run in the corridor.