



## Direct and Indirect Speech

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Direct speech and indirect speech are ways people express how something was said. Direct speech also called quoted speech is said exactly how the speaker initially spoke the words. Indirect speech also called reported speech is reported back not using the exact words as the original speaker.

### Direct Speech

Direct speech also called quoted speech is said exactly how the speaker initially spoke the words. It is written with quotation marks to indicate the exact words that were used by the original speaker. A comma is used to separate the quoted speech and the speaker.

- He said, "I am not finished with the assignment."
- "I want to break up with you," she told me.

### Indirect Speech

Indirect speech also called reported speech is reported back not using the exact words as the original speaker. It is written without quotation marks because it is not directly quoting word for word. When using indirect speech the verb tense changes because we are reporting things that have happened in the past. A comma is not used.

- He said he was not finished with the assignment.
- She told me that she wanted to break up with me.

### Tense Changes When Reporting Speech

The verb tense changes when reporting speech (indirect speech) from a quoted speech (direct speech). When using indirect speech the verb tense changes because we are reporting things that have happened in the past. You do not have to use "that" when reporting speech. It is optional.



Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
She said, "I <b>like</b> candy."	She said she <b>liked</b> candy.
"I <b>am playing</b> baseball," John said.	John said he <b>was playing</b> baseball.
Carol said, "I <b>lived</b> in England."	Carol said that she <b>had lived</b> in England.
"I <b>will help</b> them tomorrow," she said.	She said that she <b>would help</b> them tomorrow.
Mark said, "We <b>were studying</b> all night."	Mark said that they <b>had been studying</b> all night."
"It <b>has been raining</b> all day," he said.	He said that it <b>had been raining</b> all day.
Bill told me, "I <b>had been waiting</b> for three hours."	Bill told me that he <b>had been waiting</b> for three hours.
Joe told me, "We <b>will be joining</b> you on Saturday."	Joe told me that they <b>would be joining</b> us on Saturday.

## Changing Time and Place References

Time and place can often change when going from direct to indirect speech. When reporting something at a different time, the time word needs to be changed. When reporting something from a different location, the place word needs to be changed.

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
"I went to the park <b>today</b> ," he said.	He said that he had gone to the park <b>that day</b> .
She said, "I saw her <b>yesterday</b> ."	She said that she had seen her <b>the day before</b> .
Kevin said, "I have a doctor's appointment <b>next week</b> ."	Kevin said that he had a doctor's appointment <b>the following week</b> ."
"I was in Hawaii <b>last month</b> ," Jane told me.	Jane told me she had been in Hawaii <b>the previous month</b> .
"We had lunch <b>a week ago</b> ," she said.	She said they had lunch <b>a week before</b> .



John said, "I live in <b>this</b> house."	John said that he lived in <b>that</b> house.
Stacy said, "I work <b>here</b> ."	Stacy said she worked <b>there</b> .

## Reporting Speech Questions

Direct speech questions asking "who", "what", "when", "where", "why", and "how" can be rephrased in indirect speech format. Question marks are not used in indirect speech formats.

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
" <b>Who</b> are you talking to?" she asked.	She asked me <b>who</b> I was talking to.
My mom asked me, " <b>What</b> are you doing?"	My mom asked me <b>what</b> I was doing.
Craig asked, " <b>When</b> are we leaving?"	Craig asked <b>when</b> we were leaving.
My dad asked, " <b>Where</b> are you meeting?"	My dad asked <b>where</b> we were meeting.
My sister asked me, " <b>Why</b> are you so sad?"	My sister asked me <b>why</b> I was so sad.
" <b>How</b> are you doing?" Jane asked.	Jane asked <b>how</b> I was doing.

## Reporting Speech Yes/No Questions

Direct speech questions asking for "yes" or "no" answers can be rephrased in indirect speech format. "Yes or no" questions are reformatted by using "if". The format for indirect speech is "ask + if + clause".

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
He asked, " <b>Do</b> you speak English?"	He asked <b>if</b> I spoke English.
My mom asked me, " <b>Are</b> you hungry?"	My mom asked me <b>if</b> I was hungry.
My mom asked, " <b>Have</b> you eaten?"	My mom asked <b>if</b> I had eaten.
Sally asked, " <b>Can</b> you ride a bike?"	Sally asked <b>if</b> I could I ride a bike.
John asked, " <b>Is</b> it raining?"	John asked <b>if</b> it was raining.



## Reporting Verbs

Along with "say (said)", "tell (told)", and "ask (asked)", there are many other verbs that can be used to report what someone said. These are some of the most commonly used reporting verbs.

The format for these commonly-used reporting verbs is "reporting verb + infinitive (to + verb)".

- **Advise (advised)** - to suggest what should be done in a certain situation
- **Beg (begged)** - to ask or state in a serious or desperate way for something needed or wanted
- **Demand (demanded)** - to say or ask in a strong way
- **Hope (hoped)** - to want or desire something to happen
- **Offer (offered)** - to say you are willing to do something
- **Order (ordered)** - to tell someone what to do in a commanding way
- **Promise (promised)** - to make a strong statement saying that you will or will not do something
- **Swear (swore)** - to make a strong promise to do or not do something

The format for these commonly used reporting verbs is "reporting verb + that + clause".

- **Answer (answered)** - to give a reaction to a question
- **Claim (claimed)** - to say that something is true
- **Command (commanded)** - to give an order or show control over people
- **Comment (commented)** - to give an opinion or explanation about something
- **Complain (complained)** - to say that you are not happy about something
- **Consider (considered)** - to think about
- **Declare (declared)** - to say something in a strong and confident manner
- **Demand (demanded)** - to say or ask in a strong way
- **Explain (explained)** - to make something more clear or understandable
- **Guarantee (guaranteed)** - to promise something or to make sure something happens



- **Propose (proposed)** - to suggest an idea or plan
- **Repeat (repeated)** - to say or do again
- **Reply (replied)** - to answer a question or statement
- **Report (reported)** - to tell about something you have seen or done
- **State (stated)** - to express something with words
- **Suggest (suggested)** - to give an idea or advice for people to think about
- **Threaten (threatened)** - to say that you will harm or do something bad to someone
- **Warn (warned)** - to tell someone about a danger or a bad thing that might happen
- **Wish (wished)** - to want something or to want something to happen

## Reporting Orders

When you want to report an order (a demand or strong request), there are specific verbs that are used. The format for these commonly-used reporting verbs is "reporting verb + person spoken to + infinitive (to + verb)".

- **Command (commanded)** - to give an order or show control over people
- **Demand (demanded)** - to say or ask in a strong way
- **Order (ordered)** - to tell someone what to do in a commanding way
- **Warn (warned)** - to tell someone about a danger or a bad thing that might happen

## Reporting Requests

When you want to report a request (something asked for), there are specific verbs that are used. The format for these commonly-used reporting verbs is "reporting verb + person spoken to + for + object".

- **Ask (asked)** - to say in a form of a question; to request something
- **Beg (begged)** - to ask or state in a serious or desperate way for something needed or wanted

## Reporting Suggestions

When you want to report a suggestion (an idea or plan to think about), there



are specific verbs that are used. The format for these commonly-used reporting verbs is "reporting verb + person spoken to + to/that + clause".

- **Advise (advised)** - to suggest what should be done in a certain situation
- **Propose (proposed)** - to suggest an idea or plan
- **Suggest (suggested)** - to give an idea or advice for people to think about

## Reporting Intentions

When you want to report an intention (something that you have planned to do), there are specific verbs that are used. The format for these commonly-used reporting verbs is "reporting verb + infinitive (to + verb)" or "reporting verb + that + clause".

- **Intend (intended)** - to plan to do something
- **Threaten (threatened)** - to say that you will harm or do something bad to someone

## Reporting Hopes

When you want to report a hope (something wished for), there are specific verbs that are used. The format for these commonly-used reporting verbs is "reporting verb + infinitive" or "reporting verb + that + clause".

- **Hope (hoped)** - to want or desire something to happen
- **Wish (wished)** - to want something or to want something to happen

## Reporting Promises

When you want to report a promise (a strong statement saying that you will or will not do something), there are specific verbs that are used. The format for these commonly-used reporting verbs is "reporting verb + infinitive (to + verb)" or "reporting verb + that + clause".



- **Promise (promised)** - to make a strong statement saying that you will or will not do something
- **Swear (swore)** - to make a strong promise to do or not do something

## Practice Questions

### Quiz 1: Directions: Choose the correct answer.

1) Tom said, "I travel to exotic places."

Tom said he \_\_\_\_\_ to exotic places.

- a. travel
- b. travels
- c. traveled

2) Susan said, "I am going to the store."

Susan said that she \_\_\_\_\_ to the store.

- a. going
- b. was going
- c. am going

3) Linda told me, "I owned a flower shop."

Linda told me that she \_\_\_\_\_ a flower shop.

- a. owns
- b. was owing
- c. had owned

4) He said, "I will take my mom to the airport."

He said that he \_\_\_\_\_ his mom to the airport.

- a. will take



- b. is taking
- c. would take

5) "I was swimming in the pool since 10 am," she said.  
She said she \_\_\_\_\_ in the pool since 10 am.

- a. was swimming
- b. had been swimming
- c. is swimming

6) My cousin said, "I will be attending the graduation party."  
My cousin said that he \_\_\_\_\_ the graduation party.

- a. would be attending
- b. was attending
- c. will be attending

## Quiz 2: Directions: Choose the correct answer.

1) Sam said he was going to Europe after graduation.

Sam said, \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. "I am going to Europe after graduation."
- b. "I was going to Europe after graduation."
- c. "I were going to Europe after graduation."

2) Sharon told me that she would be entering the talent show.

Sharon told me, \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. "I enter the talent show."
- b. "I will be entering the talent show."
- c. "I would be entering the talent show."





3) Frank said that the phone had been ringing all day.

Frank said, \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. "The phone was ringing all day."
- b. "The phone has been ringing all day."
- c. "The phone is ringing all day."

4) Jenny said she would help me with my homework.

Jenny said, \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. "I will help you with your homework."
- b. "I would help you with your homework."
- c. "I am helping you with your homework."

5) Nancy said that she had played basketball in college.

\_\_\_\_\_ Nancy said.

- a. "I play basketball in college,"
- b. "I am playing basketball in college,"
- c. "I played basketball in college,"

6) The passenger said that they had been sitting on the plane for twelve hours.

\_\_\_\_\_ the passenger said.

- a. "We are sitting on the plane for twelve hours,"
- b. "We sit on the plane for twelve hours,"
- c. "We had been sitting on the plane for twelve hours,"

## **Quiz 1 Answers**

- 1) c. traveled
- 2) b. was going
- 3) c. had owned



- 4) c. would take
- 5) b. had been swimming
- 6) a. would be attending

## **Quiz 2 Answers**

- 1) a. I am going to Europe after graduation.
- 2) b. I will be entering the talent show.
- 3) b. The phone has been ringing all day.
- 4) a. I will help you with your homework.
- 5) c. I played basketball in college,
- 6) c. We had been sitting on the plane for twelve hours,

## **Quiz 3: Directions: Choose the correct answer.**

1) She said, "I will meet her tomorrow."

She said that she would meet her \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. today
- b. the next day
- c. next week

2) He said, "I have a business trip to Boston next week."

He said that he had a business trip to Boston \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. this week
- b. in two weeks
- c. the following week

3) "I got a new car last month," he told me.

He told me that he had gotten a new car \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. the previous month
- b. following month
- c. that month

4) Susie said, "I was sick yesterday."



Susie said that she had been sick \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. the day before
- b. today
- c. the previous week

5) "I quit my job today," he told me.

He told me that he had quit his job \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. the next day
- b. the following day
- c. that day

#### **Quiz 4: Directions: Choose the correct answer.**

1) "I attended this school," the child said.

The child said she had attended \_\_\_\_\_ school.

- a. that
- b. this
- c. there
- d. here

2) "I work in this building," Bill said.

Bill said that he worked in \_\_\_\_\_ building.

- a. that
- b. this
- c. there
- d. here

3) She said, "I often shop at \_\_\_\_\_ store."

She said that she often shopped at that store.



- a. that
- b. this
- c. there
- d. here

4) They said, "We like the food here."

They said that they liked the food \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. that
- b. this
- c. there
- d. here

5) "The people are nice \_\_\_\_\_," she said.

She said that the people were nice there.

- a. that
- b. this
- c. there
- d. here

### **Quiz 3 Answers**

- 1) b. the next day
- 2) c. the following week
- 3) a. the previous month
- 4) a. the day before
- 5) c. that day

### **Quiz 4 Answers**

- 1) a. that
- 2) a. that
- 3) b. this
- 4) c. there
- 5) d. here



## Quiz 5: Directions: Choose the correct answer.

1) Tom asked, "Where are you going?"

Tom asked where I \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. is going
- b. are going
- c. was going

2) Susan asked Jeff, "Can you pick me up?"

Susan asked Jeff if he \_\_\_\_\_ pick her up.

- a. can
- b. could
- c. will

3) Everyone asked, "When will the movie start?"

Everyone asked when the movie \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. will start
- b. would start
- c. will be starting

4) "Did you finish your homework?" my mom asked.

My mom asked if I \_\_\_\_\_ my homework.

- a. had finished
- b. would finish
- c. will be finishing

5) My grandfather asked me, "How old are you?"

My grandfather asked me how old I \_\_\_\_\_.



- a. are
- b. were
- c. was

**Quiz 6: Directions: Choose the correct answer.**

1) She asked me if I would go to the store with her.

She asked me, \_\_\_\_\_

- a. "Will you go to the store with me?"
- b. "Can you go to the store with me?"
- c. "Are you going to the store with m?e"

2) He asked us what movie we were watching.

He asked us, \_\_\_\_\_

- a. "What movie is you watching?"
- b. "What movie are you watching?"
- c. "What movie will you be watching?"

3) My mom asked us if we wanted ice cream.

My mom asked us, \_\_\_\_\_

- a. "Do you want ice cream?"
- b. "Do you wanted ice cream?"
- c. "Do you wanting ice cream?"

4) My teacher asked me what my name was.

My teacher asked, \_\_\_\_\_

- a. "What are your name?"
- b. "What is your name?"
- c. "What your name is?"



5) He asked when the plane arrived.

He asked, \_\_\_\_\_

- a. "When is the plane arrive?"
- b. "When do the plane arrive?"
- c. "When did the plane arrive?"

### **Quiz 5 Answers**

- 1) c. was going
- 2) b. could
- 3) b. would start
- 4) a. had finished
- 5) c. was

### **Quiz 6 Answers**

- 1) a. Will you go to the store with me?
- 2) b. What movie are you watching?
- 3) a. Do you want ice cream?
- 4) b. What is your name?
- 5) c. When did the plane arrive?

### **Quiz 7: Directions: Choose the correct answer.**

1) The police \_\_\_\_\_ him to get a lawyer.

- a. advised
- b. complained
- c. answered

2) Mark \_\_\_\_\_ that he hated his job.

- a. suggested
- b. complained



c. proposed

3) Linda \_\_\_\_\_ people that something bad might happen.

- a. warned
- b. offered
- c. considered

4) James \_\_\_\_\_ to help them with their project.

- a. claimed
- b. reported
- c. offered

5) Susan \_\_\_\_\_ to know where the evidence was hidden.

- a. explained
- b. claimed
- c. replied

6) The athlete \_\_\_\_\_ to the reporter's question.

- a. offered
- b. suggested
- c. replied

**Quiz 8: Directions: Choose the correct answer.**

1) "If I were you, I would see a doctor about that pain," Janice said to Tina.

Janice \_\_\_\_\_ Tina to see a doctor.

- a. advised
- b. repeated
- c. suggested
- d. commented





2) John told his son, "I will be at your graduation ceremony. You have my word."

John \_\_\_\_\_ to be at his son's graduation ceremony.

- a. suggested
- b. promised
- c. answered
- d. advised

3) Larry said, "I already told you I don't like Chinese food. But I'll say it again. I don't like Chinese food."

Larry \_\_\_\_\_ that he did not like Chinese food.

- a. advised
- b. repeated
- c. suggested
- d. commented

4) She said, "Yes, I am in high school."

She \_\_\_\_\_ that she was in high school.

- a. suggested
- b. promised
- c. answered
- d. advised

5) "I have a better way to do it," I said.

I \_\_\_\_\_ that I had a better way to do it.

- a. suggested
- b. promised
- c. answered
- d. advised



6) He said, "I don't like the color of the walls."

He \_\_\_\_\_ that he did not like the color of the walls.

- a. advised
- b. repeated
- c. suggested
- d. commented

### **Quiz 7 Answers**

- 1) a. advised
- 2) b. complained
- 3) a. warned
- 4) c. offered
- 5) b. claimed
- 6) c. replied

### **Quiz 8 Answers**

- 1) a. advised
- 2) b. promised
- 3) b. repeated
- 4) c. answered
- 5) a. suggested
- 6) d. commented

### **Quiz 9: Directions: Choose the correct answer.**

1) "Do your homework!"

My parents \_\_\_\_\_ me to do my homework.

- a. asked
- b. told

2) "You should get a lawyer as soon as possible!"



My friend \_\_\_\_\_ me to get a lawyer as soon as possible.

- a. begged
- b. advised

3) "Put your hands up!"

The police officer \_\_\_\_\_ everyone to put their hands up.

- a. ordered
- b. suggested

4) "May I have a glass of water, please?"

I \_\_\_\_\_ for a glass of water.

- a. asked
- b. proposed

5) "Please have mercy on me. This was my first offense."

The defendant \_\_\_\_\_ the judge for leniency.

- a. commanded
- b. begged

6) "There is a big storm coming!"

The weatherman \_\_\_\_\_ people that a storm was coming.

- a. warned
- b. commanded



**Quiz 10: Directions: Is the sentence an order, request, or suggestion?**

- 1) He told me to get out of his house.
  - a. a request
  - b. an order
  - c. a suggestion
  
- 2) I demanded that she give me back my money.
  - a. a request
  - b. an order
  - c. a suggestion
  
- 3) The customer asked for another cup of coffee.
  - a. a request
  - b. an order
  - c. a suggestion
  
- 4) She proposed to her team that they get an early start.
  - a. a request
  - b. an order
  - c. a suggestion
  
- 5) The doctor advised his patient to get surgery soon.
  - a. a request
  - b. an order
  - c. a suggestion
  
- 6) He demanded to see the manager right away.
  - a. a request
  - b. an order
  - c. a suggestion



7) The child begged for another piece of candy.

- a. a request
- b. an order
- c. a suggestion

### **Quiz 9 Answers**

- 1) b. told
- 2) b. advised
- 3) a. ordered
- 4) a. asked
- 5) b. begged
- 6) a. warned

### **Quiz 10 Answers**

- 1) b. an order
- 2) b. an order
- 3) a. a request
- 4) c. a suggestion
- 5) c. a suggestion
- 6) b. an order
- 7) a. a request

### **Quiz 11: Directions: Choose the correct answer.**

1) "I will not tell anyone your secret. You have my word!"  
She \_\_\_\_\_ not to tell anyone the secret.

- a. promised
- b. hoped

2) "Give me the money or I will shoot."  
He \_\_\_\_\_ to shoot if I did not give him the money.



- a. hoped
- b. threatened

3) "I will find the killer one day!"

The sheriff \_\_\_\_\_ that he would find the killer one day.

- a. intended
- b. swore

4) "I plan to go to the party even if my ex-boyfriend is there."

She \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the party even if her ex-boyfriend was there.

- a. intended
- b. wished

5) "I believe my friend will get here on time for the show."

She \_\_\_\_\_ her friend would arrive on time for the show.

- a. hoped
- b. threatened

6) "I want to go to Disneyland!"

She \_\_\_\_\_ to go to Disneyland.

- a. swore
- b. wished

## **Quiz 12: Directions: Is the sentence a promise, hope or intention?**

1) I swear I'm telling the truth.

- a. promise



- b. hope
- c. intention

2) I swear that I will pay you back tomorrow.

- a. promise
- b. hope
- c. intention

3) We should be home in time for dinner.

- a. promise
- b. hope
- c. intention

4) I will tell everyone your secret if you don't give me money.

- a. promise
- b. hope
- c. intention

5) I should be able to go to your party.

- a. promise
- b. hope
- c. intention

6) I guarantee you will be satisfied with the product.

- a. promise
- b. hope
- c. intention

7) I'm going to expose the evidence.

- a. promise
- b. hope
- c. intention



8) I'm looking forward to seeing you again.

- a. promise
- b. hope
- c. intention

### **Quiz 11 Answers**

- 1) a. promised
- 2) b. threatened
- 3) b. swore
- 4) a. intended
- 5) a. hoped
- 6) b. wished

### **Quiz 12 Answers**

- 1) a. promise
- 2) a. promise
- 3) b. hope
- 4) c. intention
- 5) b. hope
- 6) a. promise
- 7) c. intention
- 8) b. hope