



SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kurumbapalayam (Po), Coimbatore – 641 107

An Autonomous Institution

Accredited by NAAC – UGC with ‘A’ Grade

Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA SCIENCE

COURSE NAME : 23ENT101 ENGLISH FOR ENGINEERS

I YEAR / II SEMESTER

UNIT IV: DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH



DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH



Direct speech: Reporting the message of the speaker in the exact words as spoken by him/her.

Example: Maya said 'I am busy now'.

Indirect speech: Reporting the message of the speaker in our own words

Example: Maya said that she was busy then.



RULES FOR CONVERTING



To change a sentence of direct speech into indirect speech there are various factors that are considered, such as reporting verbs, modals, time, place, pronouns, tenses, etc.



RULE 1



When the reporting verb of direct speech is in past tense then all the present tenses are changed to the corresponding past tense in indirect speech.

Example:

Direct: She said, 'I am happy'.

Indirect: She said (that) she was happy.



RULE 2



In indirect speech, tenses do not change if the words used within the quotes (") talk of a habitual action or universal truth.

Example:

Direct: He said, 'We cannot live without air'.

Indirect: He said that we cannot live without air.



RULE 3



The tenses of direct speech do not change if the reporting verb is in the future tense or present tense.

Example:

Direct: She says/will say, 'I am going'

Indirect: She says/will say she is going.



Direct Speech to Indirect Speech conversion – Present Tense

Present Perfect Changes to Past Perfect.

Example:

Direct: “I have been to Boston”, she told me.

Indirect: She told me that she had been to Boston.



Direct Speech to Indirect Speech conversion – Present Tense

Present Continuous Changes to Past Continuous

Direct to indirect speech example:

Direct: “I am playing the guitar”, she explained.

Indirect: She explained that she was playing the guitar.



Direct Speech to Indirect Speech conversion – Present Tense

Present Perfect Changes to Past Perfect

Direct to indirect speech example:

Direct: He said, “She has finished her homework”.

Indirect: He said that she had finished her homework.



Direct Speech to Indirect Speech conversion – Present Tense

Simple Present Changes to Simple Past

Direct to indirect speech example:

Direct: "I am unwell", she said.

Indirect: She said that she was unwell.



DIRECT SPEECH TO INDIRECT SPEECH CONVERSION – PAST TENSE & FUTURE TENSE

Simple Past Changes to Past Perfect

Direct: She said, "Irvin arrived on Sunday."

Indirect: She said that Irvin had arrived on Sunday.

Future Continuous Changes to Conditional Continuous

Direct: He said, "I'll be disposing of the old computer next Tuesday."

Indirect: He said that he would be disposing of the old computer the following Tuesday.



DIRECT SPEECH TO INDIRECT SPEECH CONVERSION – PAST TENSE & FUTURE TENSE



Past Continuous Changes to Past Perfect Continuous

Direct: "We were playing basketball", they told me.

Indirect: They told me that they had been playing basketball.

Future Changes to Present Conditional

Direct: She said, "I will be in Scotland tomorrow."

Indirect: She said that she would be in Scotland the next day.



CONVERSION – INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES



No conjunction is used, if a sentence in direct speech begins with a question (what/where/when) as the “question-word” itself acts as a joining clause.

Direct to indirect speech example

Direct: “Where do you live?” asked the boy.

Indirect: The boy enquired where I lived.



CONVERSION – INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES



If a direct speech sentence begins with an auxiliary verb/helping verb, the joining clause should be if or whether.

Direct to indirect speech example

Direct: She said, 'Will you come for the party'?

Indirect: She asked whether we would come for the party.



CONVERSION – INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES



Reporting verbs such as 'said/ said to' changes to enquired, asked, or demanded.

Direct to indirect speech example

Direct: He said to me, 'What are you wearing'?

Indirect: He asked me what I was wearing.



EXAMPLES OF MODALS



Direct : She said, 'She can dance'.

Indirect: She said that she could dance.

Direct: She said, 'I may buy a dress'.

Indirect: She said that she might buy a dress.

Direct: Rama said, 'I must complete the assignment'.

Indirect: Rama said that he had to complete the assignment.

There are modals that do not change–Could, Would, Should, Might, Ought to

Direct: She said, 'I should clean the house'

Indirect: She said that she should clean the house.



DIRECT SPEECH TO INDIRECT SPEECH CONVERSION – PRONOUN



The first person in direct speech changes as per the subject of the speech.

Direct: He said, "I am in class Twelfth."

Indirect: He says that he was in class Twelfth.

The second person of direct speech changes as per the object of reporting speech.

Direct: She says to them, "You have done your work."

Indirect: She tells them that they have done their work.



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REQUEST, COMMAND, WISH, EXCLAMATION



Indirect Speech is supported by some verbs like **requested, ordered, suggested and advised**. Forbid-forbade is used for negative sentences.

Direct: She said to her 'Please complete it'.

Indirect: She requested her to complete it.

Direct: Hamid said to Ramid, 'Sit down'.

Indirect: Hamid ordered Ramid to sit down.



REQUEST, COMMAND, WISH, EXCLAMATION



In Exclamatory sentences that express grief, sorrow, happiness, applaud, Interjections are removed and the sentence is changed to an assertive sentence.

Direct: She said, 'Alas! I am undone'.

Indirect: She exclaimed sadly that she was broke.



SPEECH CONVERSION – PUNCTUATIONS



In direct speech, the words actually spoken should be in (") quotes and always begin with a capital letter.

Example: She said, "I am the best."

Full stop, comma, exclamation or question mark, are placed **inside the closing inverted commas.**

Example: They asked, "Can we sing with you?"



CHANGE OF TIME

- Now becomes then
- Here becomes there
- Ago becomes before
- Thus becomes so
- Today becomes that day
- Tomorrow becomes the next day
- This becomes that
- Yesterday becomes the day before
- These become those
- Hither becomes thither
- Come becomes go
- Hence becomes thence
- Next week or month becomes following week/month

