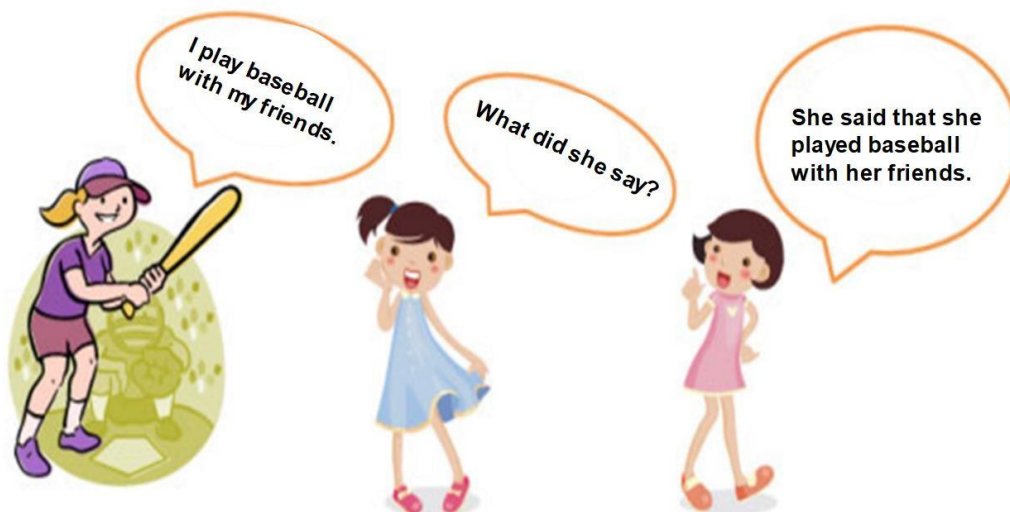


Worksheet 3.3: Reported Speech (Direct and Indirect Speech)

Date: _____


Reported Speech (Direct and Indirect Speech)



➤ We may report the words of a speaker in two ways:

Type	Use	Examples
Direct speech	<p>When we quote the speaker's actual words</p> <p>In direct speech, we use inverted commas to signify the exact words of the speaker.</p>	John said, "I am very busy now."
Indirect/Reported speech	<p>When we report what the speaker said without quoting his exact words.</p> <p>In indirect speech we do not use inverted commas.</p>	John said that he was very busy then.

Certain changes have been made when we changed the direct speech into an indirect speech.

John said, "I am very busy now."  John said that he was very busy then.

1. We have used the conjunction **that** before the indirect statement. (The word 'that' is often omitted especially in spoken English.)
2. The pronoun **I** is changed to **he**.
3. The verb **am** (present) is changed to **was** (past).
4. The adverb **now** is changed to **then**.

Basic verb shifts for indirect speech

Original Verb	Reported Form
Present simple He said, "I dance all the time." will/shall He said, "I will study!" He said, "I should study for the exam tonight."	Past Simple He said (that) he danced all the time. would/should He said (that) he would study! He said (that) he should study for the exam that night.
can He said, "I can study for the exam."	could He said (that) he could study for the exam.

Present Progressive He said, "I am studying now ."	Past Progressive He said (that) he was studying then .
Imperative He said, "Study!"	Infinitive He ordered me to study!

➤ *However, if reporting about general truths, we do not need to shift the verb tense back.*

For example,

John said, "The sky is blue." John said that the sky is blue.

Reporting questions

When reporting questions, there are certain rules to follow, as is clear from the following examples.

Original Verb	Reported Form
He asked, "What are you doing?"	He asked what I was doing.
We use if/whether to report Yes/No questions. The teacher asked me, " Do you know the answer?"	The teacher asked me whether/if I knew the answer.

Transforming Direct Speech into Reported Speech

As discussed earlier, when transforming a sentence from direct speech into reported speech, you will have to change the **pronouns**, **tense** and **adverbs of time** and **place** used by the speaker. Let us look at the following tables to see how they work.

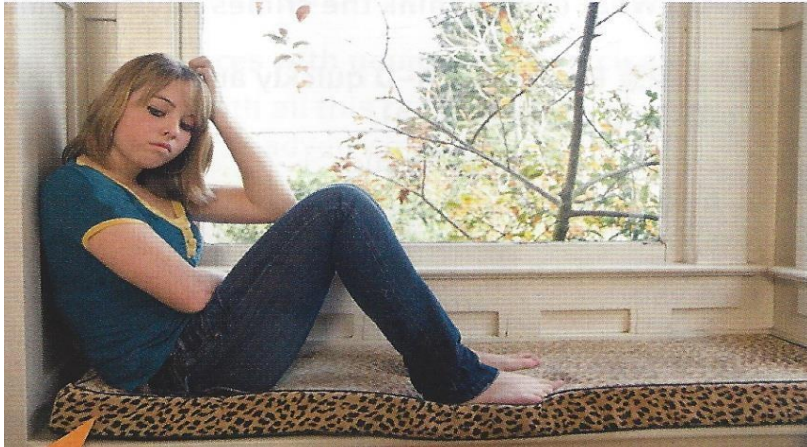
Table 1 - change of pronouns

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
I	he, she
me	him, her
we	they
us	them
you	he, she, they
you	him, her, them
my	his, her
mine	his, hers
our	their
ours	theirs
your	his, her, their
yours	his, hers, theirs

Table 2 – change of adverbs of place and adverbs of time

direct speech	reported speech
this	that
these	those
adverbs of place	
here	there
adverbs of time	
now	then
today	that day
tomorrow	the next day / the following day
tonight	that night
next week	the week after
next month	the following month
next year	the following year

1. Rewrite what Rachel says using reported speech. The first one is done for you.



1. "I'm bored." Rachel said.

Rachel said that she was bored.

2. "I don't want to watch a film."

3. "I'm going to ring Lia."

4. "I can't find my mobile."

5. "I can borrow my mom's phone."

6. "My mom doesn't have Lia's number on her phone."

7. "I am going to Lia's house."

1. Change the following sentences into reported speech by making the necessary changes.

1. Rachel said, "I have an interview tomorrow."

2. Maha said, "What is he doing here?"

3. Sherly said, "My daughter is playing the lead role in the play tonight."

4. Dina said, "It is a wonderful movie!"

5. Suzi said, "My son is getting married next month."

6. Anna said, "I look forward to meeting you."

7. The teacher said, "Make sure you complete the homework tomorrow."

8. Sylvester said, "I am not going to cry anymore."

9. Jade said, "My sister is going on a trip now."

10. "Are you going to the station?" asked John.

11. "Do you live here?" she asked.

3. Rewrite the following direct speech sentences as indirect speech, make any necessary changes:

1. "I am going to the movies tonight," Rachel said.

2. "When will you arrive?" John asked his brother.

3. "You shall do your homework tomorrow," the teacher said to us.

4. "We will visit Paris next month," Sarah exclaimed.

5. "Shut the door," she told him.

6. "I love this song," Jack said.

7. "I work here," my dad said.

8. "I don't have a pen," John said.

9. "Are you ready for the test?" the teacher asked the students.

10. "Don't touch the paintings," the museum guide warned us.
