

TITRE DE LA LEÇON : DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECHES

Discipline : Anglais

Sous-discipline : Grammaire

Cycle : Lycée

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Niveau : Terminale A

There are two ways to report what a person says, said, has said, will say or is saying: **direct and indirect speech**.

I- Direct speech/quoted speech

In direct speech, we reproduce the speaker's exact words between inverted commas or quotation marks (" ").

Examples:

Kombo: I speak English.

Malonga: what does Kombo say?

Oko: Kombo says: "I speak English."

Tom: I play the piano.

Patrick: what did Tom say?

Dorothy: Tom said: "I play the piano."

I- Indirect speech/ reported speech

We use the indirect speech when we report what someone said without using his exact words.

Examples:

Kombo: I speak English.

Malonga: what does Kombo say?

Oko: Kombo says **that he speaks English**.

Tom: I play the piano.

Patrick: what did Tom say?

Dorothy: Tom said **that he played the piano**.

Note: When the verb of reporting is in the simple past (said), the following changes occur:

-Tenses changing

Direct speech

Indirect speech

Simple Present

Simple Past

She said, "I **watch** TV every day." She said that she **watched** TV every day.

Present continuous

Past continuous

She said, "I **am watching** TV." she said that she **was watching** TV.

Simple past/ Preterite

Past perfect (had + past participle)

She said, "I **watched** TV every day." She said that she **had watched** TV every day.

Present perfect

Past perfect (had + past participle)

She said, "I **have watched** TV." She said that she **had watched** TV.

Present perfect continuous

Past perfect continuous

She said, "I **have been watching** TV." She said that she **had been watching** TV.



Simple future

She said, "I **shall/will watch** TV."

Conditional

She said that she **would watch** TV.

But, note: **Conditional**

Conditional

She said, "I **could/should/would/might watch** TV." She said that she **could/would/might watch** TV.

- Modal verbs in indirect speech

Modal verbs: **can - may - must - ought to.**

Changes

Can → could

May → might

Must → had to / must

ought to → ought to

Example: Direct speech: They said, "We **may** visit the museum."

Indirect speech: They said that they **might** visit the museum.

Remark: When the **introducing verb** is in the **simple present**, the **present continuous**, the **simple future** and the **present perfect**, the tense of the verb does not change in indirect speech.

Example: Direct speech: Bob says/ is saying/will say/ has said, "I often **go** to school on foot."

Indirect speech: Bob says/ is saying/will say/ has said that he often **goes** to school on foot.

1-Questions in indirect speech

1-1-Yes/no questions in indirect speech

We usually change the introducing verb **say** by **ask** or **wonder** and use the conjunctions **if** or **whether**.

Subject + introducing verb+if/whether +Subject +verb (appropriate tense) +object ...

Examples:

1-"Do you speak Lingala?", said Mary. → Mary asked **if** I spoke Lingala.

2-Father said, "Did mother clean the fridge?" → Father wondered **whether** mother had cleaned the fridge.

Note: In the indirect questions, the auxiliary **do** is not used.

1-2- Wh- questions in indirect speech

We usually change the introducing verb **say** by **ask** or **wonder** and use the conjunctions **what**, **where**, **how**, **etc.**

Subject + introducing verb+Wh+Subject +verb (appropriate tense) +object ...

Examples:

1-"What is your name?", said the teacher. → The teacher asked (me) **what** my name was.

2-Alan asked, "Where is Linda going?" → Alan asked/wanted to know **where** Linda was going.

Note: The Wh-word does not disappear; it is placed before the subject.

2-Orders, requests, advice and suggestions in indirect speech

We usually use an infinitive structure to report orders, requests, advice and suggestions:

... verb+object+infinitive...

Examples: Direct speech: "Be careful!", said the doctor.

Indirect speech: The doctor **told me to be** careful.

Direct speech: The police officer said, "Don't park here!"

Indirect speech: The police officer **told me not to park** there.



Direct speech: Mike said, "Would you like to go out with me?"

Indirect speech: Mike **asked me to go** out with him.

Direct speech: My friend said, "Think again before you decide which phone to buy."

Indirect speech: My friend **advised me to think** again before I decide which phone to buy.

3-Pronouns in indirect speech

Direct speech	→	Indirect speech
I	→	He/She
We		They
You		I/ me
My		his/her
Our		their
Your		my/his/ her
This		that

4-Expressions of time and place in indirect speech

Direct speech	→	Indirect speech
Today	→	that day
Tomorrow		the next day / the following day
The day after tomorrow		in two days' time/ two days later
Yesterday		the day before / the previous day
The day before yesterday		two days before
Last week/month/year		the previous week/month/year
Next week/month/year		the following week/month/year
Now		then
Tonight		that night
This		that
These		those
Here		there
Soon		in a short time
Ago		before

Exercise one: Turn these sentences into indirect speech.

- 1-She said, "I saw Mary at church."
- 2-Paul said, "I always drink coffee."
- 3-Jane said, "I am reading a newspaper."
- 4-He said, "Bill arrived on Saturday."
- 5-"I have been in Spain", he told me.
- 6-"I had just turned the light off", the boy explained.
- 7-They complained, "We have waited for hours."
- 8-Betty said, "I shall be in Paris on Monday."
- 9-They explained, "It could be difficult to find our house."

Exercise two: Turn these sentences into indirect speech

- 1-He said, "I have called my father today."
- 2-She said, "I arrived yesterday."
- 3-Paul said, "I met Liz the day before yesterday."
- 4-He said, "I will see you tomorrow."
- 5-"We'll come the day after tomorrow", they said.



- 6-“I have an appointment next week”, said the manager.
7-He told us, “I was on holiday last week.”
8- “I bought a new phone a week ago.” Peter said,
9-She said, “I’m getting a new training this week.”

Exercise three: Turn these sentences into indirect speech.

- 1- Princess asked me, “Are you travelling?”
2- Mother told me, “Shut the door before going to sleep!”
3- “Where is dad?” Aunt Janet asked.
4- “Stop making a noise!” grandma said to the boys.
5- “What are you doing?” the teacher asked the girl.
6- “Why do you often come late?” asked the principal.
7-“Where are my shoes?” Okoko asked his sister.
8- “Have you finished your homework?” mother asked her son.

Exercise three: Turn these sentences into direct speech.

- 1-Marc said that there was a cat in the kitchen.
2-Brenda says that she speaks four languages.
3-The teacher told us to take our pencils.
4-Alice said that her father had died two years before.
5-Mother asked me why I was crying.
6-The teacher asked the girl what she was doing.
7-The manager asked me if I could type.
8-The old man complained that his dog had disappeared.