

Reported Speech (Part 1)

Introduction

There are two ways of repeating what a person has said: direct and indirect .

- In direct speech we repeat the original speaker's exact words:

Direct speech: I **like** ice cream.

When we use direct speech, we use the same words but use quotation marks, “ _ ”.

- In an indirect speech , we usually change the verbs, and pronouns:

Reported speech: She says that she **likes** ice cream.

Form

1. We use a reporting verb like 'say' or 'tell'. If this verb is in the present tense, it's easy.

We just put 'she says 'or ' He says' and then we complete the sentence. We don't need to change the tense, though probably we do need to change the 'pronoun' from 'I' to 'she' or ' He' for example. We also may need to change words like 'my' and 'your'.

2. On the other hand, if the reporting verb is in the past tense, verbs in the direct speech have then to be changed into a corresponding past tense.

Direct speech: I **like** ice cream.

Reported speech: She said That she **liked** ice cream.

The changes are showing in the following table :

Direct speech	Indirect Speech
Simple Present “I never eat meat”, he explained	Simple Past = He explained (that) he never ate meat.
Present Continuous “I’m waiting for Ann”, he said.	Past Continuous = He said (that) he was waiting for Ann.

<p>Present Perfect</p> <p>“I have found a flat”, he said.</p>	<p>Past Perfect</p> <p>= He said (that) he had found a flat.</p>
<p>Simple Past</p> <p>“I took it home with me”, she said.</p>	<p>Past Perfect</p> <p>= She said (that) he had taken it home with her</p>

PRONOUNS AND ADJECTIVES: CHANGES NECESSARY

A. First and second person pronouns and possessive adjectives normally change to the third person except when the speaker is reporting his own words. (I = he, she; me = him, her; my = his, her; mine = his, hers; we = they...)

She said, “he’s my son”. She said that he was her son.

“I’m ill”, she said. She said that she was ill.

B. **THIS / THESE**

- **This** used in time expressions usually becomes **that**.

She said, “She’s coming this week”. / She said that she was coming that week.

- **This** and **that** used as adjectives usually change to **the**.

He said, “I bought this pearl/these pearls for my mother”.

He said that he had bought the pearl/the pearls for his mother.

- **This, these** used as pronouns can become **it, they/them**.

He came back with two knives and said, “I found these beside the king’s bed”. / He said he had found them beside the king’s bed.

He said, “We will discuss this tomorrow”. He said that they would discuss it (the matter) the next day.

EXPRESSIONS OF TIME AND PLACE IN INDIRECT SPEECH

A. Adverbs and adverbial phrases of time change as follows:

DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
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today	that day
yesterday	the day before
the day before yesterday	two days before
tomorrow	the next day/the following day
the day after tomorrow	in two day's time
next week/year etc.	the following week/year etc.
last week/year etc.	the previous week/year etc.
a year etc. ago	a year before/the previous year

Examples :

“I saw her the day before yesterday”, he said. / He said he’d seen her two days before.
 “I’ll do it tomorrow”, he promised. / He promised that he would do it the next day.
 She said, “My father died a year ago”. / She said that her father had died a year before/the
 previous year.

Activity one: Report the following statements using ‘Says That’

a. Paul: “Atlanta is a wonderful city.”

b. Jane : “I go jogging every morning.”

c. Anna: “Jenny isn’t studying for her exams.”

d. Andrew: “I used to be very fat.”

e. Jim: “I can’t swim.”

Activity two: Write these sentences into the indirect speech, changing words where necessary.

- a. "Mary works in a bank", Jane said.
.....
- b. "I'm staying with some friends", Jim said.
.....
- c. "I've never been to Russia", Mike said.
.....
- d. "I walked home after the party", he said.
.....
- e. "I saw her today", he said
.....
- f. She said, "We went swimming today."
.....
- g. "I'm trying to listen to the music", he said
.....
- h. "I spoke to Jane last week", she said.
.....
- i. "We visited her this morning" they said.
.....
- j. Mrs Jones: "The bride and the groom are very nice young people."
.....
- k. Mr Roberts: "The bride is wearing a beautiful wedding dress."
.....
- l. Miss Mayall: "The bride's father has bought them a big flat."
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N.B : I tried to simplify the lesson for you as much as possible , this is a small part of reported speech .

For further questions and comments you can contact me and you can also answer the activities and send it to my email address: afafboussoum@yahoo.com .

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Remark :

All the students are obliged to answer the activities and send them to my email address.