



Direct and Indirect Speech

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DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

What a person says can be recorded in two ways. You could use **direct speech** which **records exactly what he says** or **indirect speech** which **records approximately what he says**.

To record direct speech, you have to **use quotation marks**; the **opening inverted commas to begin** the speech and the **closing inverted commas to end** that speech.



Booz said, "I feel really bad. I got all of you thrown out of Whispers."

Wiz replied, "Don't worry. It's not really your fault. The citizens there are just too sensitive. You know, the trees there has a strange smell. Many times I had to stifle a sneeze. What if I had sneezed a real big one, I would have been arrested! I'm glad to be out of that place."



The advantage the direct speech has it that it **draws you closer** to the speaker and situation as you are reading the exact words spoken.



You have to use an **introductory verb** to start the direct speech. A **comma accompanies this introductory verb**. In the examples, **said** and **replied** are the introductory verbs which are usually in the past tense.

Added, asked, claimed, exclaimed, explained, related, remarked, retorted, stated are some examples of introductory verbs.

You have to begin the speech of each person in a new paragraph.

Indirect Speech

Indirect or reported speech is used when the exact words spoken are not available.

For indirect speech, the verb in the reported part goes one stage further back in time than the original statement. Words indicating place reference, for instance, 'here', 'this place' and time reference, for instance, 'now', 'today', have to be changed. Pronouns have to be changed from the first person to the third person.

You usually use 'that' to start off the reported part of the sentence.

CHANGING DIRECT INTO INDIRECT



Direct Statements

- (1) Ernesto said, "It's all Booz's fault. He chose a frail, old tree to climb."
- (2) Jojo stated, "It's just unfortunate for us that there were people around in the park."
- (3) Sabrina admitted, "I'm glad to leave that place. I had to tiptoe most of the time there."

Indirect Statements

- (1) Ernesto said that it was all Booz's fault. He remarked that Booz had chosen a frail, old tree to climb.
- (2) Jojo stated that it was unfortunate for them that there had been people around in the park.
- (3) Sabrina admitted that she was glad to leave that place and that she had had to tiptoe most of the time there.



Direct Questions

- (1) Jojo asked, "Berta, where are you going next?"
- (2) Booz asked, "Will it be another place where the rules are just as strict?"
- (3) Wiz asked, "How many more stops are we going to make?"
- (4) (Noticing that Kiko is very quiet) Roberta asked, "Kiko, what is the matter?"

Indirect Statements

- (1) Jojo asked Roberta **where** they were going next
- (2) Booz asked Roberta whether it would be another place where the rules were just as strict
- (3) Wiz asked Roberta how many stops they were going to make.
- (4) Roberta asked Kiko what the matter was.

Exercise A

Kiko and Booz decide to have some fun while journeying to the next destination. They use a computer to churn out a statement. Then Kiko will convert the statement into direct speech while Booz will make it indirect. The faster person wins a points. Join them in this game. Use names to help in the conversion.

(1) Wiz : I really love the Valley of Echoes.

(2) Jojo : I look forward to visiting the Land of Changing Scenes.

(3) Ernesto + kiko : What happened to Jojo in the Land of Grandmas?

(4) Roberta + Sabrina : Who ate the most noodles in the Land of Noodles?

(5) Sabrina + Roberta : Why was Wiz unhappy at the City of Glass?

(6) The children : We explored the Cave of Lights.

(7) Kiko : At Music Meadows, I sang the songs my mother taught me.

(8) Jojo : Roberta is the best train driver.



(9) Sabrina : Jojo is always the first one to get off the train.

(10) Jojo : Ernesto likes to eat fruit.

(11) Sabrina : I have written twice to Mother Wisey.

(12) Booz : I believe Wiz is suffering from travel sickness.

(13) Kiko : This is the greatest journey of my life.

(14) Ernesto : Roberta is pretty.



(15) Roberta + Sabrina : How many places have we visited?

(16) Wiz + the boys : Are you all interested?

(17) Kiko + Booz : Wait for me.

(18) Roberta + Kiko : My goodness, you can slide down the
slope!

(19) Ernesto + Jojo : Step aside!

(20) Jojo + Ernesto : Quiet!

