

THE INDIRECT SPEECH

EXERCISE 1.

Put the following questions into indirect speech. Remember that you can use either *if* or *whether* as link words.

Eg. What time is George coming home?

I wonder what time George is coming home.

1. What can I eat this evening?

Help me decide

2. Why is dad not phoning?

I'd really like to know

3. Has granny ever been on a plane?

Do you know

4. Have John and Sally been married for a long time?

I wonder

5. Where is Andy's girlfriend from?

I'm not quite sure

6. Did I tell you about the other night at Steve's?

7. I can't remember

EXERCISE 2.

Put the following paragraph into reported speech. Choose some of the following introductory verbs: ASK / ENQUIRE / SAY / TELL / REPLY / ANSWER / ADD.

Claire: "Would you like to go to the cinema on Saturday?"

Bob: "I don't know... Who's going?"

Claire: "Well, I'M going! Is it not enough for you?"

Bob: "No, it is no longer enough. I'm sorry, Claire, but I'm going to leave you."

Start like this:

Claire asked Bob if...

EXERCISE 3.

Rewrite the sentences in the indirect form.

e.g. John: "We are getting married soon".

John said they were getting married soon.

1. Paul: "We had an accident during our holiday."

Paul said

2. Sandra: "We are going to have lunch."

Sandra said

3. Russell: "I can't help listening to what they're saying."

Russell said

4. Patrick: "It's been a hectic week."

Patrick said

5. Amanda: "We've been travelling all around India."

Amanda said

6. Tom: "Joanna is shocked, she can't even say a word."

Tom said

7. Jennifer: “We had the time of our life in Brazil”.

Jennifer said

8. Sam: “Laura must study harder if she wants to pass her exams”.

Sam said

9. Claudia: “I think the lesson will probably go on forever.”

Claudia said

10. Eric: “Those people behaved so strangely.”

Eric said

11. Anna: “I think I’m going to throw up.”

Anna said

12. Alec: “She is the most beautiful girl I have ever known”.

Alec said

EXERCISE 4.

Put the following dialogues into reported speech using the following verbs:

declare

say

tell

agree

deny

plead

demand

Example:

Tony – “I love you Bettie”

Tony declared his love for Bettie.

DIALOGUE 1:

Bettie: Well, I have never loved you.

Tony: But you accepted my proposal of marriage.

Bettie: That was because you were rich. Now you have lost your money I no longer want you.

Tony: I didn't lose my money, you spent it!

Bettie: It's over Tony, just accept the fact and move on with your life. I have!

Tony: So you don't want me back?

Bettie: Never, ever ever.

Tony: That's a shame. I won the lottery.

DIALOGUE 2:

Judge: so, you were speeding?

Defendant: No sir, not me.

Judge: So, you deny you were speeding?

Defendant: Definitely.

Judge: But the police caught you on camera. How can you deny that?

Defendant: No sir. They have a picture of my car on camera, not me.

Judge: If it's your car you must have been driving it. Am I correct in thinking this?

Defendant: No sir.

Judge: For goodness sake man; give me a straight answer. Was it you?

Defendant Again. No sir. I sold the car two weeks ago!

EXERCISE 5.

Rewrite the following sentences in reported speech:

e.g. *“If you people don’t move that truck from my premises, I will call the police.”*

He said that if they didn’t move the truck from his premises, he would call the police.

1. “What is going on here?”, he asked. “Some sort of party?”, he continued.

2. “We were just unwinding after a difficult and full-filled weekend of imposed recreation.”, the private replied.

3. “Well, alright.” conceded the staff sergeant. “Just try to keep it down ‘cause the captain’s still really upset with you guys about that boiled chicken stunt that you played last week.”

4. “You can bet your life on that, Sarge!”, the private replied. “We’ll be as quiet as mice and sweet as sleepin’ babes.”, chimed in one of his comrades.

5. “Just remember to clean up the broken beer bottles before you leave. Don’t leave the place like you did last week.”, the sergeant admonished.

6. “The United States Government can neither confirm nor deny the sightings of little green men in the Oval Office but we can confirm reports of the existence of intelligent life in those quadrants.”, said the White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer.

7. “What about rumours of fraternisation between the president’s family and these so-called U.F.O. s ?”, called out the reporter from the Podunk Courier and Feed Guide.

8. “No comment!”, retorted Mr. Fleischer, icily.

9. “Is it true that the President has been sent to the Royal School of Poncey Pronunciation for diction and grammar lessons? “, cut in the man from the New York Times.

10. “ We can only confirm the existence of fax communications which make reference to a correspondence course. That’s all, gentlemen. The President and I thank you for your time.”, the spokesman concluded.

EXERCISE 6.

Change the following sentences from reported speech into dialogue. While there is much room for interpretation, the verb tenses must be correct:

e.g. He asked what the problem was and why the accounts hadn't been completed on time.

“What’s the problem? Why haven’t the accounts been completed on time?”

1. The accountant responded that it had not been her fault if she had not completed the accounts and blamed the whole thing on a very irritating noise that had been emanating from the air – conditioning vents.



2. Mr. Cheese responded that that was a likely story and that he wasn't going to accept any of it and that if she wanted to keep her job she would have to get down to work in order to complete the work before the office closed for Christmas day.

3. The cowed accountant accepted this warning telling Mr. Cheese that she would work all night if necessary to finish the assignment.

4. Mr. Cheese accepted this response but insisted in reminding her that her job was at stake.

5. The accountant responded that no one knew better than she the risk she ran of losing her job.

6. Mr Cheese said that it was good that she was aware of the dangers of unemployment and reminded her of how grateful she should be for his clemency and comprehension.

7. The accountant exclaimed her undying loyalty to him and the company. She then asked Mr. Cheese if she could leave her work station to get a drink of water to which Mr. Cheese consented while commenting that if she must drink water she should try to avoid doing it on the company's time.

8. The accountant thanked Mr. Cheese profusely while rushing towards the bathroom door.

9. On the accountant's return Mr. Cheese expressed his dismay at the length of time she had spent in the bathroom and chastised her again for her laziness.

EXERCISE 7.

Match the sentences in direct speech to the reporting verb and then write a sentence.

It will be necessary to change some words. Do not use all the verbs.

<i>accuse</i>	<i>admit</i>	<i>advise</i>	<i>agree</i>
<i>apologise</i>	<i>beg</i>	<i>complain</i>	<i>deny</i>
<i>invite</i>	<i>offer</i>	<i>order</i>	<i>promise</i>

e.g. *“I won’t go with you”*. *He refused to go with her.*

1. “Don’t forget to ring me!”

2. “This soup is too hot”.

3. “It’s true. I stole this CD”.

4. “I’m sorry I said that”.

5. “Please, please! Don’t kill me!”

6. “It’s dangerous”.

7. “Stop talking”.

“Okay, I’ll come to the party”.

8. “Why don’t you try another restaurant”.

9. “I didn’t do it”.

10. “You stole the car, didn’t you”.

11. “Would you like to drop by tomorrow?”

12. “Don’t worry. I’ll do it now.”

13. “If you don’t pay up, you’ll never see your son alive again.”

INDIRECT QUESTIONS

EXERCISE 1.

Change the sentence to an indirect question as in the example.

e.g. Where does she live? Did I tell you where she lives?

1. When did he leave home?

Would you tell me _____

2. What are they reading?

How would I know _____

3. How will you get to work?

Can you tell me _____

4. Who killed the man in your room?

Could you find out _____

5. What time is the party?

Do you remember _____

6. Should we come early?

Do you know if _____

7. Was anybody else involved?

Can you find out _____

8. Had he been there before?

Can you ask _____

9. Was he alone when he called?

Why do you want to know _____

10. Were they accused of the crime?

Who knows _____

11. Did the burglar break in through the back?

How would I know _____

12. Have they registered under a false name?

How can we tell _____

13. How long had they been waiting?

Do you know _____

14. Who does he know who could give some help?

Can you ask _____

REPORTING SUGGESTIONS, ADVICE, REQUESTS AND COMMANDS

EXERCISE 1.

Use one of the following words to complete the sentences.

More than one may be appropriate.

Suggest / advise / recommend / offer / tell /

warn / order / request / ask / invite / apologise.

E.g. The doctor advised me to take a week off work.

1. I was _____ by the policeman to empty my pockets.

2. Susan _____ me that she was getting married.
3. My presence _____ at the conference.
4. During the game, the referee _____ him that if he fouled once more, he would be sent off.
5. George and Stephanie _____ me to their engagement party but I couldn't go.
6. The teacher _____ for shouting at her students.
7. My financial adviser _____ that I bought shares in Microsoft.
8. She was _____ not to feed the pigeons.
9. The government has _____ small business to prepare for a recession.

EXERCISE 2.

Report the sentences below using the appropriate words from the previous exercise.

E.g. Mother: "Go and clean your room".

I was ordered to clean my room.

1. Doctor: "If you don't stop drinking so much whisky, your health could be in serious danger"

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2. Anne: "Would you like to come to my house for dinner tonight?"

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3. Salesman: “ If you buy one, I’ll give you the second for half price!”

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4. Son: “ Please don’t come to watch me sing mum! I’ll be so embarrassed”.

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5. Fred: “I’m really sorry I forgot your birthday”.

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