

عنوان المحاضرة: الكلام المباشر وغير مباشر

المادة الدراسية: اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة الدراسية: الماجستير

مدرس المادة: ا.م.د اثيل عبد الخالق سعيد

العام الدراسي: ٢٠٢٥-٢٠٢٦



جامعة الموصل

كلية الآداب

القسم: اللغة الفرنسية

Direct and Indirect Speech

Introduction

Direct and indirect speech are two ways of reporting what someone has said. **Direct speech** presents the speaker's exact words, usually enclosed in quotation marks, whereas **indirect speech**, also called **reported speech**, conveys the meaning of the speaker's words without necessarily repeating them exactly. In indirect speech, changes may be required in **pronouns, verb tenses, time expressions, and place expressions** to fit the context of reporting. Direct and indirect speech are widely used in everyday communication, academic writing, journalism, and narrative texts.

Direct and indirect speech are important grammar topics used in writing and speaking.

They help us report what someone has said in two different ways.

1. Direct Speech

Direct speech means we write or say the exact words spoken by a person.

We always use quotation marks (“ ”).

Example: Ali said, “I am going to school.”

2. Indirect Speech (Reported Speech)

Indirect speech means we report the meaning of what someone said, but not the exact words.

Quotation marks are not used.

Example: Ali said that he was going to school.

3. Reporting Verbs

Common reporting verbs include: said, told, asked, explained, replied.

- 'Said' is usually followed by 'that'.
- 'Told' must have an object (told me, told her).

4. Changes in Direct and Indirect Speech (With Examples)

When we change **Direct Speech** into **Indirect Speech (Reported Speech)**, we usually make **5 important changes**:

1. Change of Quotation Marks

Direct Speech:

We use quotation marks (“ ”).

✓ Example:

She said, “**I am tired.**” **Indirect Speech:**

Quotation marks are removed.

✓ Example:

She said that she was tired.

2. Change of Pronouns

Pronouns change depending on who is speaking.

Direct Speech:

Ali said, “**I like my**

school.” Indirect Speech:

Ali said that **he** liked **his** school.

More Examples:

Direct Speech

He said, “I am hungry.”

Sara said, “We are ready.”

John said, “My brother is here.”

Indirect Speech

He said that **he** was hungry.

Sara said that **they** were ready.

John said that **his** brother was there.

3. Change of Tense (Backshift)

When reporting speech, the tense usually changes **one step back into the past**.

☑ Present →

Past Direct:

She said, “**I work every**

day.” Indirect:

She said that she **worked** every day.

☒ **Present Continuous → Past**

Continuous Direct:

He said, “**I am**

studying.” **Indirect:**

He said that he **was studying**.

☒ **Present Perfect → Past Perfect**

Direct: They said, “**We have**

finished.” **Indirect:** They said that they **had finished**.

☒ **Past Simple → Past Perfect**

Direct: She said, “**I went to the market.**”

Indirect: She said that she **had gone** to the market.

☒ **Will → Would**

Direct: He said, “**I will help you.**”

Indirect: He said that he **would** help me.

☒ **Can → Could**

Direct: Ali said, “**I can swim.**”

Indirect: Ali said that he **could** swim.

 Tense Change Table

Direct Speech Indirect

	Speech
Present Simple	Past Simple
Present	Past
Continuous	Continuous
Present Perfect	Past Perfect
Past Simple	Past Perfect
Will	Would
Can	Could

4. Change of Time and Place Words

Words like *today*, *tomorrow*, *here* change in indirect speech.

Examples:

Direct: She said, “**I am leaving today.**”

Indirect: She said that she was leaving **that day.** **Direct:** He said, “**I will come**

tomorrow.”

Indirect: He said that he would come **the next day.** **Direct:** They said, “**We met yesterday.**”

Indirect: They said that they had met **the day before.**

Time & Place Change Table

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
today	that day
tomorrow	the next day
yesterday	the day before
now	then
here	there
this	that

5. Change of Reporting Verbs

We often use:

- **said** (general)
- **told** (needs an object)
- **asked** (for questions)

Said

Direct:	Indirect:
He said, " I am late. "	He said that he was late.

Told (must have object)

Direct:	Indirect:
She said, " I will help you. "	She told me that she would help me.

6. Reporting Questions

In indirect speech:

- ☒ No question mark
- ☒ No inversion (do/does/did removed)

Direct:	Indirect:
She asked, “ Where do you live? ”	She asked where I lived.
He asked, “ Are you coming? ”	He asked if I was coming

7. Reporting Commands

Commands become:

told + object + to + verb

Direct: The teacher said, “**Open your books.**”

Indirect: The teacher told the students to open their books.

Direct: Mother said, “**Don’t be late.**”

Indirect: Mother told me not to be late.

5. Questions in Reported Speech

When reporting questions, we do not use question marks or inversion.

Direct: She asked, “Where do you live?”

Indirect: She asked where I lived.

6. Commands and Requests

Commands are reported using: **told + object + to + verb**

Direct: The teacher said, “Sit down.”

Indirect: The teacher told the students to sit down.

7. Practice Worksheet

Change into indirect speech:

1. Sara said, “I am reading a book.”

2. The man said, “We will travel tomorrow.”

3. She said, “I have finished my work.”

Change into direct speech:

4. He said that he was tired.

5. They said that they would meet the next day