

UNIT-6

SPEECH: DIRECT AND INDIRECT

If a sentence is in the inverted commas, we know that it is direct speech. It means these are the exact words of the speaker. But if there are no inverted commas and there are connectives like that/if whether to 'wh' words etc., then it is known as indirect speech which is reported to mean the same as that of the speaker.

Rules for changing direct speech into indirect speech

1. If there is assertive sentence, we should omit inverted comma by "thar" and the grammatical structure of the reporting speech is changed according to the reporting verb; as follows:
 - i) Our teacher says, "The earth moves round the sun."
➤ Our teacher says that the earth moves around the sun.
 - ii) Binaya said, "I meet my friends at Dharan,"
➤ Binaya said that he met his friends at Dharan.
2. Then simple present tense in the reporting speech is changed into simple past, which is changed into past perfect tense. Similarly, the present continuous is changed into the past continuous and the past continuous is changed into the past perfect continuous. The present perfect is changed into the past perfect.

E.g., Observe the following examples:

- i) Ramesh said, "You are very handsome."
➤ Ramesh said that I was very handsome.
- ii) Lalit said to me. "Hari met me yesterday."
➤ Lalit told me that Hari had met him the day before.
- iii) Ramala said to him. "You are walking fast."
➤ Ramala told him that he was walking fast.
- iv) Sita said, "You were playing very well."
➤ Sita said that I had been playing very well.
- v) Ranjita said, "I've made a kite."
➤ Ranjita said that he had made a kite.

Notes:

The universal truths and habitual actions are not changed according to the afore-mentioned rules.

- i) He says, "The sun rises in the east."

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- He says that the sun rises in the east.
- ii) She said, "I drink a glass of milk every morning."
 - She said that she drinks a glass of milk every morning.
- 3. The auxiliaries change:
 - will **into** would may **into** might
 - shall **into** should/would can **into** could
- i) Birkha said, "I will learn French."
 - Birkha said that he would learn French.
- ii) Biru said, "I may go out."
 - Biru said that he might go out.
- 4. Words expressing nearness in time or place are generally changed into words expressing distance in this way:
 - tomorrow → the coming day/the following day
 - now → then
 - today → that day
 - here → there
 - tomorrow → the next day
 - ago → before
 - thus → so
 - this → that
 - yesterday → the day before last night the night before
 - these → those
- i) She said, "I am glad to be here this evening."
 - She said that she was glad to be there that evening.

In the similar way the persons in reporting speech are changed as following:

my → her/his
Us → them
me → him/her
I → he/she
we → they
our → their
you → me/us or I/we

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On the basis of its position sometimes you change into him/her/them/he/she/they and 'your' changes into his/her/their/ours.

- i) The students said, "Our teacher taught us Nepali yesterday."
 - The students said that their teacher had taught them Nepali the day before.
- ii) Sarit said to me, "I will watch you on T.V tomorrow."
 - Sarit told me that he would watch me on TV the following day.
- iii) The teacher asked us, "Did you do your homework?"
 - The teacher asked us if we had done our homework.
- iv) I said, "I speak Hindi"
 - I said that I spoke Hindi.
- v) I said, "She likes me."
 - I said that she liked me.

5. Rules for the Imperative sentence

- To omit the inverted commas in imperative sentences we use, "to" and the reporting verb "said" is changed into "asked" "requested" if related to a request. Sometimes it is changed into "told" "suggested" "ordered" "advised" according to the given sentences
 - The tenses of the reporting speech are changed as in the assertive sentences.
 - Don't is changed into 'not to'
- i) Diksha said to me, "Give me your mobile number." (order)
 - Diksha told me to give her my mobile number.
 - ii) Rayan said to Rachana, "Please give me a cup of coffee." (request)
 - Rayam requested Rachana to give him a cup of coffee.
 - iii) The teacher said, "Do not make noise." (order)
 - The teacher ordered not to make noise
 - iv) My uncle said to me, "will you lend me some money?" (request)
 - My uncle asked me to lend him some money.

Rules for the interrogative sentence (Yes/No question and wh-question)

- a. Yes/No interrogative sentence begins with the auxiliary verb in reporting speech. In this case, we use "if" or "whether" to omit the inverted commas and the interrogative sentence is changed into the assertive sentence.
 - i. Rakhya said to me. "Do you like me?"
 - Rakhya asked me if I liked her.
 - ii. They said to her, "Could you enjoy the picnic?"

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- They asked her whether she enjoyed the picnic.
- iii. She asked him, "Did you visit your parents last month."
 - She asked him if he visited his parents last month.
- a. For the 'wh' interrogative sentence we use the same "wh word" to omit the inverted commas and the question is changed into assertive sentences with the same rule (tense change) as in the assertive sentences.
 - i) The teacher said to me, "What is your name?"
 - The teacher asked me what my name was.
 - ii) She said to me, "where do you live?"
 - She asked me where I lived."
 - iii) Dhane said. "Who stole my mobile?"
 - Dhane asked who had stolen his mobile.

Rules for exclamatory sentences (!)

If a sentence is exclamatory, the inverted commas are omitted using "that" along with the change of the reported verb "said" into "exclaimed"

- i. The people said "Alas! Krishna Prasad passed away."
 - The people exclaimed that Krishna Prasad had passed away.
- ii. The cricketers cheered, "Hurrah! We have won the match."
 - The cricketers exclaimed that they had won the match.
- iii. He said, "Oops! I made a mistake."
 - He exclaimed that he had made a mistake.

8. Rules for "let's" sentence

"Let's" is changed into "they should" or "we should"

- i. He said to us, "Let's dance."
 - He told us that we should dance.
- ii. She said, "Let's play guitar."
 - She said that they should play guitar.