

Look at the direct speech example again:

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Kim said, "I am hungry"

???“???”

Now look at the example using indirect speech:

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Kim said that she was hungry.

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Did you notice where ‘that’ is located and how the quotation marks are not required? What else is different?

????“that”????????????????????????????????

4. The Tense Change in Indirect Speech

4.????????????

Take a look at the examples of direct and indirect speech below:

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She said, "I study English every day."

???“?????????”

She said that she studied every day.

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Can you see what happens to the tense with the indirect sentence structure? Yes, the present tense is changed to

John said, "he is reading about World War II in school"

????"????????????"

John said that he was reading about World War II in school.

????????????????????

The present perfect changes to the past perfect.

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I said, "he has started the movie"

???"????????"

I said that he had started the movie.

????????????

The present perfect continuous changes into the past perfect continuous.

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He said, "it has been raining all day"

???"????????"

He said that it had been raining all day.

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6. Direct Speech Indirect Speech (Past)

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The past simple changes to the past perfect.

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Kate said, "I cooked dinner"

????"?????"

Kate said that she had cooked dinner.

??????????

The past continuous doesn't change.

??????????

She said, "Jenny had parked the car"

??? "?????????"

She said that Jenny had parked the car.

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Past perfect doesn't change.

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They said, "we had eaten in that restaurant before"

???? "?????????????????"

They said that they had eaten in that restaurant before.

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7. Direct Speech Indirect Speech (Future)

9. Modal Verbs that Change in Indirect Speech

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Let's look at some examples to see how modal verbs work with indirect speech.

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She said, "I can speak five languages."

???“?????????”

She said that she could speak five languages.

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She said, "I can't speak a foreign language"

???“?????????”

She said that she could not speak a foreign language.

?????????????

He said, "I may need time off work"

???“?????????”

He said that he might need time off work.

?????????????

The teenagers said, "We must be home before 10 P.M."

?????“????????10?????????”



The teenagers said that they had to be home before 10 P.M.

????????????10??????

The examples above show us that the modal verb can changes to could, may changes might and must changes to had to.

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10. Modal Verbs that Don't Change in Indirect Speech

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As I said other modals don't change when using indirect speech but you may still have to change the pronoun, the word order or the adverb of time. Read the examples below to see what I mean.

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She said, "I would travel the world if I had enough money"

???“????????????????”

She said that she would travel the world if she had enough money.

????????????????????

The students said, "we should study more before our exams"

?????“????????????”

The students said they should study more before their exams.

????????????????????

Future continuous, "will be" changes to "would be"

?????“will be”??“would be”

They said, "there will be a party next weekend"

????“????????”

They said that there would be a part next weekend.

????????????

Future perfect, "will have" changes to "would have"

????????“will have”??“would have”

I said, "I will have to study more for my exams"

???“????????????”

I said that I would have to study more for my exams.

????????????????

He said, "I might go to the concert"

???“????????????”

He said that he might go to the concert.

????????????????

Ryan said, "I could go to the shop later."

????“????????????”

Ryan said that he could go to the shop later.

????????????????

Sarah said, "I ought to buy a new car"

She said, "I am scared of spiders"

???“?????”

She said that she was scared of spiders.

?????????

They said, "we want dinner"

????“?????”

They said that they wanted dinner.

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Don't forget to change the verb in accordance to the pronoun, I am scared – She is scared.

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12. Adverbs of Time and Indirect Speech

12.????????????

As we noted above, the tense must change when using the indirect speech. Therefore the aspect of time changes too, this means we must change the adverbs of time when using indirect speech.

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Tim said, "I am going to the match today"

????“?????????”

Tim said that he was going to the match that day

????????????

They said, "we are going to Spain next year"

?????"?????????"

They said that they were going to Spain in the following year.

???????????????

This may seem a bit confusing so to make it easier for you, I have made a list of the possible changes to the adverbs, from one time to another time. Now can be changed to then.

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Today can be changed to yesterday/that day.

?????????/???

Tomorrow can be changed to today/the next day.

?????????/????

Yesterday can be changed to the previous day/Thursday.

?????????/????

Next week/month/year can be changed to next week/month/year.

??/?/??????????/?/?

Last week/month/year can be changed to the previous week/month/year.

??/?/??????????/?/?

13. Questions in Indirect Speech

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What happens to questions when we want to change it into indirect speech? How can we use indirect speech for an interrogative sentence? Let's have a look and find out. In English there are two types of questions, yes or no questions and open ended questions:

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Yes or no question: Are you hungry?

??????????????

Response: Yes

??????

Open-ended question: What type of food do you like?

????????????????????

Response: I like Italian food.

??????????????

You can't respond to this question with a simple yes or no as it is not answering the question. An open-ended question requires more information.

?????????"?"?"??

14. Yes/No Questions in Indirect Speech

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How do yes/no questions look when changed into the indirect speech?

?"?/"????????????????

She said, "Are you hungry?"

???"?????"

His mum said to him, "you need to study more"

?????????"?????"

His mum advised him to study more.

???????????

He said, "Let's join the English language society in college."

????"?????????????????"

He suggested joining the English language society in college.

???????????????????

Don't forget about the negative request:

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The teacher said, "Please don't talk in class"

?????"?????????"

The teacher said not the talk in class

???????????????

The sign in the restaurant said, "No smoking"

?????????"?????"

The sign in the restaurant asked the customers not the smoke.

???????????????????

What about interrogative sentences that end with an exclamation mark?

???“?????????”

I said _____.

6. The teacher said, “You will have a test tomorrow”

????“?????????”

The teacher said _____.

7. “She had forgotten her homework,” she said.

“?????????”???

She said _____.

8. “It has been raining all day, today,” he said.

“?????????????”???

He said _____.

2. Complete the sentences using modal verbs:

?????????????

1. Jane said, “I can’t go to the party tonight”

???“?????????????????”

Jane said _____.

2. He said, “I may move to Canada next year”

???“?????????????????????”

He said _____.

3. They said, "We should go to the cinema next week"

????"????????????"

They said _____.

4. She said, "Kate ought to go to the doctor tomorrow"

????"????????????"

She said _____.

5. "We can drive to the exam centre together," the students said.

?????"????????????????????"

The students said _____.

6. Gerry said, "I would go to the theatre if I had money"

?????"????????????????"

Gerry said _____.

7. "We ought to clean the house before our parents come home," they said.

?????"????????????????????"

They said _____.

8. He said, "I must check how much the tickets cost"

????"????????????"

He said _____.

3. Change the questions below from direct speech to indirect speech:

????????????????

1. She said to her daughter, "Are you coming home for dinner?"

??????"?????"

_____.

2. I said, "How old are you?"

???"?????"

_____.

3. They asked each other, "What will we do this summer?"

??????"?????????????"

_____.

4. He said to Kim, "Why are you shouting?"

??????"?????????????"

_____.

5. I said to them, "Is the movie over?"

??????"?????????"

_____.

6. He asked her, "Are you ok?"

????"?????"

7. I asked, "When is your birthday?"

???“?????????”

8. The teacher said, "Are you ready for the test?"

????“?????????????”

Answers:

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1. Complete the sentences below:

?????????

1. She said, "I am so happy!" She exclaimed that she was so happy.

???“?????!?????????”

2. Tom said, "I cooked dinner last night"Tom complained that he had cooked dinner the night before.

????“????????”????????????????????

3. They said, "We are going to the football match"They said that they were going to the football match.

????“?????????”????????????????

4. He said, "Kevin is training for the marathon"He said that Kevin was training for the marathon.

???“????????????”????????????

5. I said, “the shop closes at 7 P.M. tonight”I said that the shop closed at 7 P.M. last night.

???“????????”????????????

6. The teacher said, “You will have a test tomorrow”The teacher told me that I would have a test the next day.

????“?????”????????????

7. “She had forgotten her homework,” she said.She said that she had forgotten her homework.

“????????”????????????

8. “It has been raining all day, today,” he said.He commented that is had been raining all day, that day.

“????????”????????????

2. Complete the sentences using modal verbs:

????????

1. Jane said, “I can’t go to the party tonight”Jane said that she couldn’t go to the party last night.

???“????????”????????????

2. He said, “I may move to Canada next year”He said that he might move to Canada next year.

???“????????”????????????

3. They said, “We should go to the cinema next week”They said that they should go to the cinema next week.

????“????????”????????????

4. She said, “Kate ought to go to the doctor tomorrow”She said that Kate ought to go to the doctor today.

???“????????”????????????

5. "We can drive to the exam centre together," the students said. The students said that they could drive to the exam centre together.

“????????????????”????????????????????

6. Gerry said, "I would go to the theatre if I had money." Gerry said that he would go to the theatre if he had money.

????“????????????????”????????????????

7. "We ought to clean the house before our parents come home," they said. They said that they ought to clean the house before their parents came home.

“????????????????????”????????????????????

8. He said, "I must check how much the tickets cost." He said that he had to check how much the tickets cost.

???“????????????????”????????????????

3. Change the questions below from direct speech to indirect speech:

????????????????

1. She said to her daughter, "Are you coming home for dinner?" She asked her daughter if she was coming home for dinner.

??????“????????”????????????

2. I said, "How old are you?" I asked him how old he was.

???“????”????

3. They asked each other, "What will we do this summer?" They asked each other what they would do for the summer.

??????“????????????”????????????

4. He said to Kim, "Why are you shouting?" He asked Kim why she was shouting.

