



SPEECH IN ENGLISH

Subject: English Language - Lecture # 10

مدرسة المادة : الدكتورة روضة برهان الدين عبدالرحمن

Kirkuk University - College of Science

Physics Department – 1st grade

- Direct and indirect speech can be a source of confusion for English learners.
- Let's first define the terms, then look at how to talk about what someone said, and how to convert speech from direct to indirect or vice-versa.
- You can answer the question *What did he say?* in two ways:
 - by repeating the words spoken (direct speech)
 - by reporting the words spoken (indirect or reported speech).

DIRECT SPEECH

- Direct speech repeats, or quotes, the exact words spoken.
- When we use direct speech in writing, we place the words spoken between quotation marks (" ") and there is no change in these words.
- We may be reporting something that's being said NOW (for example a telephone conversation), or telling someone later about a previous conversation.
 - She says, "What time will you be home?"
 - She said, "What time will you be home?" and I said, "I don't know!"
 - "There's a fly in my soup!" screamed Simone.
 - John said, "There's an elephant outside the window."

INDIRECT SPEECH

- Reported or indirect speech is usually used to talk about the past, so we normally change the tense of the words spoken.
 - We use reporting verbs like 'say', 'tell', 'ask', and we may use the word 'that' to introduce the reported words.
 - Inverted commas are not used.
 - *She said, "I saw him." (direct speech) = She said **that she had seen him.** (indirect speech)*
- 'That' may be negligent :
- *She told him that she was happy. = She told him she was happy.*

'SAY' AND 'TELL'

- Use 'say' when there is no indirect object:
He said that he was tired.
- Always use 'tell' when you say who was being spoken to (i.e. with an indirect object):
He told me that he was tired.

'TALK' AND 'SPEAK'

- Use these verbs to describe the action of communicating:
He talked to us.
She was speaking on the telephone.
- Use these verbs with 'about' to refer to what was said:
He talked (to us) about his parents.

TENSE CHANGES WHEN USING REPORTED SPEECH

- Normally, the tense in reported speech is one tense back in time from the tense in direct speech:

*She said, "I **am** tired." = She said that she **was** tired.*

Phrase in Direct Speech	Equivalent in Reported Speech
Simple present	Simple past
"I always drink coffee", she said	She said that she always drank coffee.
Present continuous	Past continuous
"I am reading a book", he explained.	He explained that he was reading a book

Phrase in Direct Speech	Equivalent in Reported Speech
Simple past	Past perfect
"Bill arrived on Saturday", he said.	He said that Bill had arrived on Saturday.
Present perfect	Past perfect
"I have been to Spain", he told me.	He told me that he had been to Spain.
Past perfect	Past perfect
"I had just turned out the light," he explained.	He explained that he had just turned out the light.
Present perfect continuous	Past perfect continuous
They complained, "We have been waiting for hours".	They complained that they had been waiting for hours.

Phrase in Direct Speech	Equivalent in Reported Speech
Past continuous	Past perfect continuous
"We were living in Paris", they told me.	They told me that they had been living in Paris.
Future	Present conditional
"I will be in Geneva on Monday", he said.	He said that he would be in Geneva on Monday.
Future continuous	Conditional continuous
She said, "I'll be using the car next Friday".	She said that she would be using the car next Friday.

The past perfect and past perfect continuous tenses do not change.

In complex sentences, the past simple and past continuous may remain unchanged if the temporal relationship between the events in the clauses is clear from the context:

CHANGING TIME AND PLACE REFERENCES

- Time and place must often change when going from direct to reported speech

Phrase in direct speech	Equivalent in reported speech
today	that day
"I saw him today", she said.	She said that she had seen him that day.
yesterday	the day before
"I saw him yesterday", she said.	She said that she had seen him the day before.

Phrase in direct speech	Equivalent in reported speech
The day before yesterday	two days before
"I met her the day before yesterday", he said.	He said that he had met her two days before.
Tomorrow	the next/following day
"I'll see you tomorrow", he said	He said that he would see me the next day.
The day after tomorrow	in two days time/ two days later
"We'll come the day after tomorrow", they said.	They said that they would come in two days time/ two days later.

Phrase in direct speech	Equivalent in reported speech
Next week/month/year	the following week/month/year
"I have an appointment next week", she said.	She said that she had an appointment the following week.
Last week/month/year	the previous/week/month/year
"I was on holiday last week", he told us.	He told us that he had been on holiday the previous week.
ago	before
"I saw her a week ago," he said.	He said he had seen her a week before.

Phrase in direct speech	Equivalent in reported speech
this (for time)	that
"I'm getting a new car this week", she said.	She said she was getting a new car that week.
this/that (adjectives)	the
"Do you like this shirt?" he asked	He asked if I liked the shirt.
here	there
He said, "I live here".	He told me he lived there.

QUESTION FORMS AND REPORTED SPEECH

WORD ORDER

Normal word order is used in reported questions, that is, the subject comes before the verb, and it is not necessary to use 'do' or 'did':

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"Where does Peter live?"	She asked him where Peter lived.
"Where are you going?"	She asked where I was going.
"Why is she crying?"	He asked why she was crying.

YES / NO QUESTIONS

This type of question is reported by using **'ask' + 'if / whether' + clause**:

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"Do you speak English?"	He asked me if I spoke English.
"Are you British or American?"	He asked me whether I was British or American.
"Is it raining?"	She asked if it was raining.

QUESTION WORDS

This type of question is reported by using **'ask' (or another verb like 'ask') + question word + clause**. The clause contains the question, in normal word order and with the necessary tense change.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"What is your name?" he asked me.	He asked me what my name was.
"How old is your mother?", he asked.	He asked how old her mother was.
The policeman said to the boy, "Where do you live?"	The policeman asked the boy where he lived.

REPORTING VERBS

- Some reporting verbs may appear in more than one of the following groups because they can be used in several ways.

VERBS FOLLOWED BY "IF" OR "WHETHER"

ask, know, remember, say, see

VERBS FOLLOWED BY A "THAT"

add, admit, agree, announce, answer, argue, boast, claim, comment, complain, confirm, consider, deny, doubt, estimate, explain, fear, feel, insist, mention, observe, persuade, propose, remark, remember, repeat, reply, report, reveal, say, state, suggest, suppose, tell, think, understand, warn

VERBS FOLLOWED BY EITHER "THAT" OR AN INFINITIVE WITH "TO"

decide, expect, guarantee, hope, promise, swear, threaten

REPORTED SPEECH: ORDERS, REQUESTS & SUGGESTIONS

REPORTING ORDERS AND REQUESTS

- When we want to report an order or request, we can use a verb like 'tell' with a to-clause: *He told me to go away.*
- The pattern is **verb + indirect object + to-clause**.
- The indirect object is the person spoken to.
- Other verbs used to report orders and requests in this way are: **command, order, warn, ask, advise, invite, beg, teach, & forbid.**

Direct speech	Indirect speech
The doctor said to me, "Stop smoking!".	The doctor told me to stop smoking.
"Get out of the car!" said the policeman.	The policeman ordered him to get out of the car.
"Could you please be quiet," she said.	She asked me to be quiet.
The man with the gun said to us, "Don't move!"	The man with the gun warned us not to move.

REQUESTS FOR OBJECTS

- Requests for objects are reported using the pattern "asked for" + object.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"Can I have an apple?", she asked.	She asked for an apple.
"Can I have the newspaper, please?"	He asked for the newspaper.
"May I have a glass of water?" he said.	He asked for a glass of water.
"Sugar, please."	She asked for the sugar.
"Could I have three kilos of onions?"	He asked for three kilos of onions.

SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions are most often reported using the verbs suggest, **insist**, **recommend**, **demand**, **request**, and **propose** followed by a that clause. 'That' and 'should' are optional in these clauses, as

Direct speech	Indirect speech
She said, "Why don't you get a mechanic to look at the car?"	She suggested that I should get a mechanic to look at the car. <u>OR</u> She suggested I should get a mechanic to look at the car. <u>OR</u> She suggested that I get a mechanic to look at the car. <u>OR</u> She suggested I get a mechanic to look at the car.

Note that **suggest**, **recommend**, and **propose** may also be followed by a gerund in order to eliminate the indirect object (the receiver of the suggestion) and thus make the suggestion more polite.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
The dentist said, "I think you should use a different toothbrush".	The dentist recommended using a different toothbrush.
You said, "I don't think you have time to see the dentist this week."	You suggested postponing my visit to the dentist.

REPORTED SPEECH: HOPES, INTENTIONS, & PROMISES

- When we report an intention, hope or promise, we use an appropriate reporting verb followed by a 'that' clause with 'would' in it, or a to-infinitive clause.
- Verbs used in this pattern include: **hope, promise, threaten, guarantee, & swear.**
- Note that the word 'that' is optional when using a that clause, as in the first example .

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"I'll pay you the money tomorrow," he said.	He promised to pay me the money the next day. <u>OR:</u> He promised that he would pay me the money the next day. <u>OR:</u> He promised he would pay me the money the next day.
"I'll be back by lunchtime," he said.	He promised to be back by lunchtime. <u>OR:</u> He promised that he would be back by lunchtime.
"We should arrive in London before nightfall," they said.	They hoped to arrive in London before nightfall. <u>OR:</u> They hoped they would arrive in London before nightfall.

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"Give me the keys to the safe or I'll shoot you!" he shouted.	He threatened to shoot me if I didn't give him the keys to the safe. <u>OR:</u> He threatened that he would shoot me if I didn't give him the keys to the safe.
"I will not tell anyone your secret" he said.	He swore that he would not tell anyone my secret. <u>OR:</u> He swore not to tell anyone my secret.

Thank you for your attention

