



**Test Yourself on Narration!**



KNOWVATION

**DIRECT AND**

**INDIRECT SPEECH**

**CONVERSIONS**

*(Grammar for SNAP, TISS-NET, CMAT, SSC, Banks)*

# NARRATION / DIRECT & INDIRECT SPEECH

The art of reporting the words of a speaker is called Narration.

There are two main ways of reporting the words of a speaker.

1. Direct Speech
2. Indirect Speech

## **Direct Speech:**

In this form, the actual words of the speaker are reported and generally put in quotes “ ”.

Ex. Shubham said, "I work in a hospital."

In the above example the speaker i.e. Shubham is known as the Reporter, 'said' is known as the Reporting Verb and "I work in a hospital." is known as the

# NARRATION / DIRECT & INDIRECT SPEECH

## Indirect Speech:

In indirect speech, the actual words of the speaker are changed.

The reason for change in actual words is that the actual words have been spoken by the speaker in past, hence narrating it in the present will require change in the tense of the actual words.

Also, the pronouns of the sentence are changed accordingly.

Ex. Direct speech: Shubham said, "I work in a hospital."

Indirect speech: Shubham said that he worked in a hospital.

## RULES – CHANGING TENSE (Direct to Indirect)

1. Simple Present Tense changes into Simple Past Tense.

Ex. They said, “We play Football”. (Direct Speech)

They said that they played Football. (Indirect Speech)

2. Present Continuous Tense changes into Past Continuous Tense.

Ex. He said, “I am waiting for someone”. (Direct)

He said that he was waiting for someone. (Indirect)

3. Present Perfect Tense changes into Past Perfect Tense.

Ex. Aditi said, “I have won a prize”. (Direct)

Aditi said that she had won a prize. (Indirect)

## RULES – CHANGING TENSE (Direct to Indirect)

4. Present Perfect Continuous Tense changes into Past Perfect Continuous Tense.

Ex. They said, “We have been living in America since 2013”. (Direct)

They said that they had been living in America since 2013. (Indirect)

5. Simple Past Tense changes to Past Perfect Tense.

Ex. She said, “I bought a new car”. (Direct)

She said that she had bought a new car. (Indirect)

6. Past Continuous Tense changes to Past Perfect Continuous Tense.

Ex. He said, “I was writing a poem.” (Direct)

He said that he had been writing a poem. (Indirect)

7. No change for Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous Tense.

## RULES – CHANGING TENSE (Direct to Indirect)

### 8. Simple Future Tense:

- WILL/SHALL changes into WOULD

Ex. He said, "I will start a new job." (Direct)

He said that he would start a new job. (Indirect)

### 9. Future Continuous Tense:

- WILL BE changes into WOULD BE

Ex. He said to me, "I will be waiting for you". (Direct)

He said to me that he would be waiting for me. (Indirect)

## RULES – CHANGING TENSE (Direct to Indirect)

### 10. Future Perfect Tense:

- WILL HAVE changes into WOULD HAVE

Ex. He said, “I will have cleaned the room”. (Direct)

He said that he would have cleaned the room. (Indirect)

## Important EXCEPTIONS:

- If reporting verb is given in Present or Future tense then there will be no change in the verb or tense of Reported speech

Ex. The teacher says, "Anu performs on the stage." (Direct)

The teacher says that Anu performs on the stage. (Indirect)

- If Reporting speech has Universal Truth or Habitual fact then there is no change in the Tense.

Ex. Our teacher said, "The earth is round." (Direct)

Our teacher said that the earth is round. (Indirect)



**QUESTIONS!**

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

She said to him, "Why don't you go today?"

- a. She asked him why he did not go that day. ---
- b. She said to him why he don't go that day.
- c. She asked him not to go that day.
- d. She requested him why he did not go today.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

My uncle said to me, "Has your uncle returned from Indore?"

- a. My uncle said to me that my uncle has returned from Indore.
- b. My uncle asked me if my uncle had returned from Indore. ----
- c. My uncle enquired me if his uncle had returned from Indore.
- d. My uncle told me his uncle had returned from Indore.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

“If you don’t keep quite I shall shoot you”, he said to her in a calm voice.

- a. Calmly he warned her that be quite or else he will have to shoot her.
- b. He warned her to shoot if she didn’t keep quite calmly.
- c. He said calmly that I shall shoot you if you don’t be quite.
- d. He warned her calmly that he would shoot her if she didn’t keep quite. ----

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

He said, "I hardly have time to attend any party."

- a. He says that he hardly had time to attend any party.
- b. He said that he hardly has time to attend any party.
- c. He said that he hardly had time to attend any party. ---
- d. He said that he has no time to attend any party.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

The boy said, "Who dare call me a thief?"

- a. The boy enquired who dared call him a thief. ---
- b. The boy asked who called him a thief.
- c. The boy told that who dared call him a thief.
- d. The boy wondered who dared call a thief.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

“What did you eat for breakfast today?” The doctor asked the patient.

- a. The doctor asked the patient whether he had eaten breakfast that day.
- b. The doctor asked the patient what he had eaten for breakfast that day. ---
- c. The doctor asked the patient whether he has eaten breakfast today.
- d. The doctor asked the patient whether he was eaten breakfast today.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

Simran said, "I bought an iphone yesterday."

- a. Simran said that I have bought an iphone the previous day.
- b. Simran told that she has bought an iphone yesterday.
- c. Simran said that she bought an iphone the previous day.
- d. Simran said that she had bought an iphone the previous day. ---



In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

The boss said to him, "I shall pay your salary tomorrow."

- a. The boss said that he shall pay your salary the next day.
- b. The boss told him that he would pay his salary the next day. ---
- c. The boss said that I shall pay my salary the next day.
- d. The boss said that he shall pay his salary the next day.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

The father will say, "My son is going to school."

- a. The father will say that his son is going to school. ---
- b. The father will say that his son will be going to school.
- c. The father would be saying that his son would be going to school.
- d. The father said that his son will go to school.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

“Why are you looking through the peephole?” I said.

- a. I asked you why you are looking through the key hole.
- b. I said to him that why he was looking through the peephole.
- c. I said to him why he is looking through the peephole.
- d. I asked him why he was looking through the peephole. ---

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

Anushka said to me, "I will go to the doctor tomorrow."

- a. Anushka told me that she will go to the doctor.
- b. Anushka told me that she will go to the doctor tomorrow.
- c. Anushka told me that she would go to the doctor tomorrow.
- d. Anushka told me that she would go to the doctor the next day. ---

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

She replied, "I have promised to reward my juniors."

- a. She replied that she had promised to reward my juniors.
- b. She promised that she would reward her juniors.
- c. She replied that she had promised to reward her juniors. ---
- d. She had promised that she would reward her juniors.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

The employer said to the employee, "Next month, you will be promoted."

- a. The employer commanded the employee that the must be promoted.
- b. The employer told the employee that he would be promoted the following month. --
- c. The employer promised the employee that he would promote him next month.
- d. The employer said that the employee will be promoted the following month.

In the question below a sentence have been given in Direct speech.  
From the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the  
given sentence in Indirect speech.

The teacher said, "The moon revolves around the Earth."

- a. The teacher told that the moon had revolved round the Earth.
- b. The teacher said that the moon revolves round the Earth. ---
- c. The teacher informed that the moon revolved round the Earth.
- d. The teacher said that the moon has been revolving.

# Thanks a lot for watching!

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