



## USAGE OF REPORTED SPEECH IN ENGLISH AND DIRECT SPEECH AND INDIRECT SPEECH

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**Annotation.** In recent years, great attention has been given to English grammar. Among students as well, important topics of the English language are being studied in depth. One of these is “Reported Speech,” which is one of the important and challenging topics in English grammar. In this article, we provide detailed information about this topic. The main focus is on sentence structure, changes in verb tenses, the sequence of tenses, as well as how pronouns, time, and place expressions change. The differences between Direct Speech and Reported Speech are explained through examples. By mastering this topic, students of all ages will have the opportunity to better understand English texts and speeches, and express their thoughts more clearly and confidently.

**Keywords:** Reported Speech, Direct Speech, Indirect Speech, Sequence of Tenses, Time expressions, Reporting verbs, Pronoun change, Say vs Tell, Tense shift, Quotation marks

### **Annotatsiya.**

So‘nggi yillarda ingliz tili grammatikasiga katta e‘tibor qaratilmoqda. Talabalar orasida ham ingliz tilining muhim mavzulari chuqur o‘rganilmoqda. Shunday mavzulardan biri bu — “Ko‘chirma nutq (Reported Speech)” bo‘lib, u ingliz tili grammatikasidagi muhim va murakkab bo‘limlardan biridir. Ushbu maqolada ushbu mavzu haqida batafsil ma‘lumotlar berilgan. Asosiy e‘tibor gap tuzilmasi, fe‘l zamonlarining o‘zgarishi, zamonlar ketma-ketligi, shuningdek, olmoshlar, vaqt va joy ifodalarining o‘zgarishiga qaratilgan. Bevosita nutq (Direct Speech) bilan ko‘chirma nutq (Reported Speech) o‘rtasidagi farqlar misollar orqali tushuntirilgan. Ushbu mavzuni chuqur o‘zlashtirish orqali har qanday yoshdagi o‘quvchilar ingliz matnlarini va nutqini yaxshi tushunishlari, o‘z fikrlarini aniq va ishonch bilan ifoda etishlari mumkin.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** Ko‘chirma nutq, Bevosita nutq, Bilvosita nutq, Zamonlar ketma-ketligi, Vaqt ifodalari, Xabar beruvchi fe‘llar, Olmosh o‘zgarishi, Say va Tell farqi, Zamon almashuvi, Iqtibos belgisi.

**Аннотация.**

В последние годы грамматике английского языка уделяется большое внимание. Среди студентов также углублённо изучаются важные темы английского языка. Одной из таких тем является "Косвенная речь (Reported Speech)", которая считается важной и в то же время сложной частью грамматики. В данной статье представлена подробная информация по данной теме. Основное внимание уделяется структуре предложений, изменениям времён глаголов, согласованию времён, а также изменениям местоимений, временных и пространственных выражений. Отличия между прямой и косвенной речью объясняются на примерах. Освоив эту тему, учащиеся всех возрастов смогут лучше понимать английские тексты и речи, а также выражать свои мысли более чётко и уверенно.

**Ключевые слова:** косвенная речь, прямая речь, согласование времён, выражения времени, глаголы сообщения, изменение местоимений, разница между say и tell, смещение времён, кавычки.

**Introduction**

Tenses and reported speech are among the most important topics in English grammar. Language is one of the most powerful tools of communication between people, and using it correctly from a grammatical point of view plays a key role in expressing thoughts clearly and fluently. Indeed, there are many important sections in English grammar, and one of them is Reported Speech. This topic allows us to convey what someone else has said using our own words. It is especially useful in both written and spoken communication. In recent years, interest in the English language and its grammar has significantly increased. Students in schools and higher education institutions are striving to study key grammar topics more deeply. Among them, Reported Speech stands out as a complex yet essential topic. It involves several grammatical rules such as sentence structure, changes in verb tenses, transformation of pronouns, and adjustments in time and place expressions.

This topic not only enriches one's grammar knowledge, but it is also very useful for constructing texts, storytelling, daily communication, and academic writing. Therefore, learning Reported Speech in depth is of great importance for every language learner.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:** The purpose of the research is to study the direct and indirect forms of reported speech, identify their grammatical and linguistic features, and explore their communicative functions. The research undertakes the following tasks: to distinguish and compare direct and indirect reported speech, identify grammatical, lexical, and paralinguistic features specific to each form of reported speech, investigate the communicative functions of

reported speech, determine its place in discourse and social context, and analyze its visual and paralinguistic characteristics.

The methods used in the research include content analysis, discourse analysis, and corpus analysis. Through content analysis, the grammatical, lexical, and syntactic features of direct and indirect reported speech will be examined. Additionally, this method will be used to identify the communicative functions of reported speech, such as social, interactional, and referential functions. Discourse analysis will help investigate how reported speech is used in the context of speech and communication, making it possible to reveal the social and cultural significance of reported speech. Corpus analysis will involve collecting and analyzing real speech samples (a corpus), which will help identify a variety of features and methods used in reported speech.

The materials used in the research will include examples and linguistic literature related to reported speech. The speech samples analyzed will be selected based on their inclusion of both direct and indirect reported speech. These examples may come from folklore, interviews, conversations, or other speech samples. Linguistic literature will serve as a foundation for exploring the grammatical features, communicative functions, and linguistic characteristics of reported speech. The data collection process will involve identifying and analyzing examples of direct and indirect reported speech. In studying reported speech, grammatical, lexical, and paralinguistic features, as well as prosodic elements such as intonation and stress, are of significant importance. During this process, the speech samples for analysis will be selected randomly, and the collected data will undergo systematic analysis. Moreover, paralinguistic features such as hand gestures, intonation, and stress, along with social context, will be considered in distinguishing and comparing direct and indirect reported speech. The results obtained through this methodology will provide a deeper understanding of the role of reported speech in linguistics, its communicative functions, and its significance in cultural context.

**Literature Review:** Reported speech holds a significant place in linguistics, as its study intersects with grammatical structure, communicative intention, and socio-cultural context. Numerous scholars have examined different aspects of reported speech, contributing to a deeper understanding of its forms and functions.

In English linguistics, Charlotte Taylor approaches reported speech not merely as a syntactic transformation but as a powerful communicative strategy. She emphasizes its role in constructing interpersonal relations and social positioning. As she states: "Reported speech is not merely a grammatical transformation but a discursive act that positions speakers within social interaction" (Taylor, 2014, p. 37). This perspective sheds light on the communicative and discursive dimensions of reported speech, particularly its ability to reflect the speaker's attitude, stance, and social alignment. In the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics, M.A.K. Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan highlight reported speech as a cohesive device that connects texts and contributes to intertextuality. According to their view, reported speech not only conveys information but also enriches meaning by embedding voices and perspectives within the discourse, thereby enhancing the depth and context of communication.

In Uzbek linguistics, although the topic of reported speech has not been as extensively studied, there are discussions regarding its grammatical aspects such as tense shifting, pronoun transformation, and syntactic restructuring. However, communicative and paralinguistic features—such as intonation, gesture, and prosody—remain underexplored. Additionally, corpus-based analyses of reported speech in real-life discourse are still relatively rare in Uzbek linguistic studies. Based on these sources, it can be concluded that studying reported speech requires a multidimensional approach that goes beyond grammar to include discourse analysis, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics. Such an approach enables a more comprehensive understanding of how reported speech functions within various linguistic and cultural contexts.

**Analysis and Results.** Reported speech refers to how we convey what others have stated or what we ourselves have mentioned previously. There are two primary forms of reported speech: direct speech and indirect speech. Direct speech repeats the precise words the speaker used, or how we recall their exact expressions:

Barbara said, “I didn’t know it was midnight.”

In indirect speech, we modify the speaker’s original words.

Barbara mentioned that she hadn’t known it was midnight.

In this sentence, I is changed to she, and the verb tense shifts to indicate that time has passed: didn’t know becomes hadn’t known.

Indirect speech emphasizes the meaning of what was said rather than the actual wording:

“I’m sorry,” said Mark. (direct)

Mark expressed his apology. (indirect: reporting the act of speaking) .Similarly, we can report things people have written or thought:

‘I’ll love you forever,’ he wrote, then slipped the note under Alice’s door. (direct report of writing)

He wrote that he would always love her, then slipped the note under Alice’s door. (indirect report of writing)

I need a change in life, she thought. (direct report of thought)

She reflected that she needed a change in life. (indirect report of thought)

Speech reports are made up of two components: the reporting clause and the reported clause. The reporting clause often uses a verb such as say, tell, ask, respond, or yell, typically in the past tense, while the reported clause contains what the original speaker communicated.

Reporting clause	Reported clause
William stated,	“I need your assistance.”
Then a man yelled,	“Get out quickly!”
The postman mentioned	he was holding a parcel for us.
Clarissa informed me	she’s considering relocating to Canada.

Direct Speech – Advanced Explanation with Examples. In direct speech, the exact words spoken by a person are enclosed in quotation marks (either single or double). A comma is typically used to separate the reporting clause from the quoted statement, unless a question mark or exclamation mark is more appropriate.

1. Statement with the Reporting Clause After the Quote

If the reported speech comes first, a comma is placed inside the quotation marks before the reporting clause.

Examples: “I found the entire situation rather unsettling,” she admitted.

“This doesn’t make any logical sense,” he remarked.

2. Statement with the Reporting Clause Before the Quote

When the reporting clause precedes the actual words spoken, a comma is placed after the reporting verb, before the quote.

Examples: Jonathan declared, “This mission requires absolute discretion.”

She whispered, “I’ve never told anyone this before.”

3. When the Quoted Speech is a Question or Exclamation. If the quoted words are a question or exclamation, we use a question mark or exclamation mark instead of a comma.

Examples: “How could you forget something so important?” he questioned.

“Watch out!” she screamed.

4. Use of a Colon for Formal or Emphatic Statements. A colon (:) can be used when the reporting clause introduces the speech in a formal or emphatic tone. Examples: The director announced: “We are entering a new era of innovation.”

The professor asserted: “Critical thinking is the foundation of true learning.”

Reported speech denotes the act of relaying what another individual has stated, written, or contemplated, typically without quoting their exact words. It stands in contrast to direct speech, which captures the speaker’s precise language, usually enclosed in quotation marks.

Direct speech: Daniel admitted, “I didn’t expect the meeting to last this long.”

Indirect speech: Daniel admitted that he hadn’t anticipated the meeting would be so prolonged.

When transforming direct speech into indirect speech, a number of grammatical adjustments are generally necessary: Verb tenses often shift back (backshifting), Pronouns are adapted according to perspective, Time and place references are usually modified to suit the reporting context.

Examples: “We are preparing for the final presentation,” said the coordinator. The coordinator stated that they were preparing for the final presentation.

“I’ll contact you later this evening,” she said.

She informed me that she would get in touch later that evening.

The Essence Over Exact Wording. The key function of reported speech is to convey the underlying message rather than the precise formulation of the original utterance. This is particularly useful in formal contexts such as academic writing, news reporting, and business

communication. Indirect speech can also be applied to report written content or internal thoughts:

“I should reconsider my career path,” he thought.

He contemplated that a reassessment of his career path might be necessary.

She wrote, “This experience has changed me.”

She noted in her letter that the experience had been transformative. Structure: Reporting Clause + Reported Clause

Reported statements are typically composed of two parts:

1. The reporting clause – introduces the speaker and reporting verb (e.g. He claimed, She explained, They announced),

2. The reported clause – communicates the content of what was said or written.

Examples: Professor Allen remarked, “The results were conclusive.”

Professor Allen remarked that the findings had been conclusive.

The spokesperson declared, “We are not liable for the delay.”

The spokesperson declared that the company was not responsible for the delay.

“I have never encountered such a situation,” she said.

She stated that she had never experienced anything of the sort.

Other reporting verbs

Add	enquire	Claim	demand	ask
Shout	reply	Note	repeat	cry (= shout)
observe	maintain	answer	wonder	protest
interrupt	continue	Warn	announce	promise
insist	confirm	Agree	threaten	point out
state	offer	suggest	confess	order

**Conclusion.** Reported Speech is one of the important grammar topics in English, used to express what other people said in our own words. This topic plays a significant role in communication, enriching both written and spoken speech, storytelling, and narrating events. Reported Speech appears in two forms: Direct Speech and Indirect Speech. Direct Speech presents someone's words exactly as they were spoken and is usually written in quotation marks.

Indirect Speech conveys those words in our own expression with grammatical changes. Indirect Speech is considered synonymous with Reported Speech. In this form, changes occur in tenses, pronouns, and time expressions. Reported Speech helps learners express their thoughts clearly, deliver others' ideas logically and understandably, and construct stories and dialogues. Mastering this topic builds a strong foundation for correct communication in English, as well as in writing essays, reports, and giving oral presentations. Therefore, Reported Speech is a relevant and beneficial topic for every English language learner.

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