

Let's Look at Direct and Indirect Speech

Book 3 Unit 10 & 20:
Book 4 Unit 4

1 Direct speech

Direct speech is when we write the actual words someone has said.

We:

- put **speech marks (inverted commas)** at the beginning and end of the spoken words.

"Read all about it," shouted the newspaper seller.

- begin a **new paragraph** when a different person speaks.

"I'll have a newspaper," said the old man.

"Here you are, sir," said the newspaper seller.

- **After** the spoken words and **before** the speech marks we need some punctuation. Usually, we use a **comma**.

"I like this newspaper," said the old man.

We use a **question mark** when the spoken words are a question.

"Any interesting news today?" asked the old man.

We can also use an **exclamation mark**.

"Same old rubbish!" complained the newspaper seller.

- If the non-spoken words come first, we put a **comma** to separate them from the spoken words.

The old man said, "I like this newspaper."

A Underline the spoken words.

1 "Do you know anything about Mars?" asked David.

2 "A red flag means it is too dangerous to swim in the sea," explained the lifeguard.

3 Angie muttered, "It isn't my fault."

B Copy and punctuate the sentences correctly.

1 Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago explained the teacher

2 The pirate captain bellowed We set sail in an hour

- © Set out and punctuate this conversation correctly.

Today, we are going to learn about Sir Francis Chichester explained Mr Evans Who was he asked Gina He was a sailor who sailed around the world on his own said Mr Evans

2 Split Direct Speech

Book 4 Unit 25; Book 5 Unit 4; Book 6 Unit 16

Sometimes we **split the spoken words**, so we have to be very careful with the **punctuation**.

"I mended the clock," explained Julie, "but it is still striking thirteen!"

The **sentence has been split** by the words *explained Julie*, so we use **two sets of speech marks** and put a **comma** after *explained Julie*.

"I mended the clock," explained Julie. "It is still striking thirteen!"

This time, Julie says **two sentences**. We still use **two sets of speechmarks** but we put a **full stop** after *explained Julie* before we begin a **new sentence**.

Copy and **punctuate** these sentences.

- 1 The car has broken down moaned Dad I'll have to ring the garage

- 2 It is Sports Day tomorrow announced the teacher and I would like everyone to take part.

3 Synonyms For Said

A **synonym** is a word that means the **same** or **nearly the same** as another word.

Using **said** all the time in direct speech is very boring. There are many more interesting words.

Here are some of them.

cried yelled muttered laughed explained instructed
ordered sobbed shrieked boasted giggled mumbled grumbled
screamed pleaded argued demanded snapped snarled
suggested whispered joked disagreed advised wailed

A Look at the **synonyms** in the box.

Which ones could you use if someone:

1 spoke quietly _____

2 was in a bad mood _____

3 spoke loudly _____

4 was being helpful _____

5 was in a good mood _____

6 was very upset _____

B Choose five of the **synonyms** from A. Use each one in a direct speech sentence of your own.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

4 Indirect speech

Indirect speech (reported speech) is when we write about what someone has said **but** we:

- **don't** use the actual spoken words
- **don't** use speech marks.

Direct speech

"I like toast," said Mandy.

"So do I," agreed Dan.

Indirect speech

Mandy said that she liked toast.

Dan agreed.

Rewrite this direct speech conversation in indirect speech.

"If you could be good at any sport, what would it be?" asked Amir.

"Well," said Karen, "I think I'd like to be a champion swimmer."

"Not me," interrupted George. "I'd like to be a jockey and win the Grand National."

"Horses scare me," said Ben. "I've always liked the idea of being a racing car driver."

“So you are scared of horses but not of driving round a track at over a hundred miles an hour?” Tania remarked in an amazed voice.

“What would you do then?” responded Ben.

"I've always fancied the idea of ski jumping," she announced.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled sheet of paper. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

Direct and Indirect Speech Round Up

Direct speech is when we write the actual words someone has said.

- Put **speech marks** (inverted commas) around the spoken words.
- Begin a **new paragraph** when a different person speaks.
- Use **punctuation** (comma, question mark, exclamation mark) after the spoken words and before the speech marks.
- If the non-spoken words come first, put a comma to separate them from the spoken words.

Indirect speech (reported speech) is when we write about what someone has said **but** we

- don't use the actual spoken words
- don't use speech marks.

Let's write

- A** Choose one of these.

Maria took her dog for a walk. During the walk, the dog spoke to her!
Write their conversation.

- B** Dominic and Nathan have a discussion about the Loch Ness monster.
Dominic believes it exists; Nathan doesn't. Write their conversation.
Think carefully about what the characters say.
Use synonyms for said.

Make notes about your ideas before you write.