Direct and Reported Speech

Cuando queremos comunicar o informar de lo que otra persona ha dicho, hay dos maneras de hacerlo: utilizando **el estilo directo** o **el estilo indirecto**

Direct Speech *(El estilo directo)*

Cuando queremos informar exactamente de lo que otra persona ha dicho, utilizamos el **estilo directo**. Con este estilo lo que la persona ha dicho se coloca entre comillas ("…") y deberá ser palabra por palabra.

Reported Speech *(El estilo indirecto)*

El estilo indirecto, a diferencia del estilo directo, no utiliza las comillas y no necesita ser palabra por palabra. En general, cuando se usa el estilo indirecto, el tiempo verbal cambia. A continuación tienes una explicación de los cambios que sufren los tiempos verbales.

A veces se usa "**that**" en las frases afirmativas y negativas para introducir lo que ha dicho la otra persona. Por otro lado, en las frases interrogativas se puede usar "**if**" o "**whether**" o la partícula interrogativa que introduce la pregunta directa (what, why, where,…).

Nota: Ten en cuenta también que *las expresiones de tiempo* cambian en el estilo indirecto. Fíjate en los cambios de tiempo en los ejemplos más abajo y después, encontrarás una tabla con más explicaciones de los cambios de tiempo en el estilo indirecto.

Direct Speech	**Reported Speech**
Present Simple	**Past Simple**
"He **is** American," she said.	She said he **was** American.
"I **am** happy to see you," Mary said.	Mary said that she **was** happy to see me.
He asked, "**Are** you busy *tonight*?"	He asked me if I **was** busy *that night*.
Present Continuous	**Past Continuous**
"Dan **is living** in San Francisco," she said.	She said Dan **was living** in San Francisco.
He said, "**I'm making** dinner."	He told me that he **was making** dinner.

"Why **are** you **working** so hard?" they asked.	They asked me why I **was working** so hard.
Past Simple	**Past Perfect Simple**
"We **went** to the movies *last night*," he said.	He told me they **had gone** to the movies *the night before*.
Greg said, "I **didn't go** to work *yesterday*."	Greg said that he **hadn't gone** to work *the day before*.
"**Did** you **buy** a new car?" she asked.	She asked me if I **had bought** a new car.
Past Continuous	**Past Perfect Continuous**
"I **was working** late *last night*," Vicki said.	Vicki told me **she'd been working** late *the night before*.
They said, "we **weren't waiting** long."	They said that they **hadn't been waiting** long.
He asked, "**were** you **sleeping** when I called?"	He asked if **I'd been sleeping** when he called.
Present Perfect Simple	**Past Perfect Simple**
Heather said, "**I've** already **eaten**."	Heather told me that **she'd** already **eaten**.
"We **haven't been** to China," they said.	They said they **hadn't been** to China.
"**Have** you **worked** here before?" I asked.	I asked her whether **she'd worked** there before.
Present Perfect Continuous	**Past Perfect Continuous**
"**I've been studying** English for two years," he said.	He said **he'd been studying** English for two years.
Steve said, "**we've been dating** for over a year now."	Steve told me that **they'd been dating** for over a year.
"**Have** you **been waiting** long?" they asked.	They asked whether **I'd been waiting** long.
Past Perfect Simple	**Past Perfect Simple (NO CHANGE)**
"**I'd been** to Chicago before for work," he said.	He said that **he'd been** to Chicago before for work.

Past Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous (NO CHANGE)
She said, "**I'd been dancing** for years before the accident."	She said **she'd been dancing** for years before the accident.

Nota: Cuando hablamos de algo que no ha cambiado (que sigue siendo cierto) o de algo en el futuro, no es necesario cambiar el tiempo verbal.
Ejemplos:

- "**I'm** 30 years old," she said. → She said she **is** 30 years old.
- Dave said, "Kelly **is** sick." → Dave said Kelly **is** sick.
- "We **are going** to Tokyo next week," they said. → They said they **are going** to Tokyo next week.
- "**I'll cut** my hair tomorrow," Nina said. → Nina said she **is** cutting her hair tomorrow.

Modal Verbs *(Los verbos modales)*
El tiempo verbal cambia en el estilo indirecto también con algunos de los verbos modales.
Nota: Con "**would**", "**could**", "**should**", "**might**" y "**ought to**", el tiempo no cambia.

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Will	**Would**
"**I'll go** to the movies *tomorrow*," John said.	John said he **would go** to the movies *the next day*.
"**Will** you **help** me move?" she asked.	She asked me if I **would help** her move.
Can	**Could**
Debra said, "Allen **can work** *tomorrow*."	Debra said Allen **could work** *the next day*.
"**Can** you **open** the window, please?", he asked.	He asked me if I **could open** the window.
Must	**Had to**
"You **must wear** your seat belt," mom said.	My mom said I **had to wear** my seat belt.
She said, "You **must work** *tomorrow*."	She said I **had to work** *the next day*.
Shall	**Should**
"**Shall** we **go** to the beach *today*?" Tom asked.	Tom asked if we **should go** to the beach *that day*.
"What **shall** we **do** *tonight*?" she asked.	She asked me what we **should do** *that night*.
May	**Might/Could**
Jane said, "I **may not be** in class *tomorrow*."	Jane said she **might not be** in class *the next day*.

"**May** I **use** the bathroom, please?", the boy asked.	The boy asked if he **could use** the bathroom.

Nota: A continuación tienes una tabla donde puedes observar los cambios que sufren las expresiones de tiempo cuando usamos el estilo indirecto.

Direct Speech	**Indirect Speech**
today	that day
tonight	that night
this week/month/year	**that** week/month/year
tomorrow	the next day
next week/month/year	**the following** week/month/year
yesterday	the day before or the previous day
last week/month/year	the week/month year **before** or **the previous** week/month/year
now	then/at that moment
Otros cambios	
here	there

Say vs. Tell

En español podemos traducir "say" o "tell" como "decir", pero en inglés se usan estos verbos de maneras distintas. Hay unas reglas que indican el uso de uno u otro en inglés, aunque en general usamos "say" para "decir algo" y "tell" para "decir algo a alguien."

Say

Se usa "say" en el estilo directo y el indirecto. Si queremos usar "say" con un objeto personal, necesitamos usar la preposición "to".

Ejemplos:

Estilo directo

"I'm hungry," he said. ("Tengo hambre," él dijo.)
"I need your help," Glen said to Mike. ("Necesito tu ayuda," Glen dijo a Mike.)

Estilo indirecto

He said he was hungry. (Él dijo que tenía hambre.)
Glen said to Mike that he needed his help. (Glen dijo a Mike que necesitaba su ayuda.)

Tell

También se puede usar “tell” con el estilo directo y el indirecto, aunque el uso con el estilo directo no es tan común. Cuando usamos “tell” necesitamos usar un objeto indirecto que va detrás del verbo.

Ejemplos:

Estilo directo

He told me, “I’m hungry”. (Me dijo “Tengo hambre.”)
Glen told Mike, “I need your help”. (Glen dijo a Mike “Necesito tu ayuda.”)

Estilo indirecto

He told me that he was hungry. (Me dijo que tenía hambre.)
Glen told Mike that he needed his help. (Glen dijo a Mike que necesitaba su ayuda.)

Otros usos de “tell”:

1. Se usa “tell” con órdenes o instrucciones.

I told him, “**Stop** complaining.” (Le dije, “Deja de quejarte.”)
She told us **to hurry.** (Nos dijo que nos diéramos prisa.)

2. Usamos “tell” cuando damos o pedimos información.

“Can you tell me your name please?” (“Díme tu nombre, por favor.”)
“Did you tell him the address of the office? (¿Le dijiste la dirección de la oficina?)

3. Se usa “tell” con cuentos o bromas. En este caso, se puede traducir “tell” como “contar” en español.

He told us a great story. (Nos contó un cuento maravilloso.)
“Tell me a joke,” she said. (“Cuéntame un chiste,” dijo ella.)

4. Con la verdad y las mentiras, se usa “tell”.

“Tell me the truth”, she demanded. (“Dime la verdad,” dijo ella.)
Keith never tells lies. (Keith nunca miente.)

5. Usamos “tell” con el tiempo o la fecha.

“Could you tell me the time, please?” she asked. (“Podrías decirme la hora, por favor?” me preguntó.)
Bob told me the date. (Bob me dijo la fecha.)

Completa las frases con la forma correcta de "say" o "tell".

Q1 Ted ____ that he won't go to the party.

Q2 "I'm going to bed", Bill ____.

Q3 ____ us a story from your trip to Australia.

Q4 The teacher ____ to the class that she wouldn't be in school the next day.

Q5 You can't believe anything Amanda _____, she always _____ lies.

Q6 We ____ him to meet us in front of the cinema.

Q7 What _____ you _____? I can't hear you.

Q8 My grandfather always ____ such interesting stories.

Escribe las siguientes frases en estilo indirecto

Q1 Sarah asked, "Are you busy tonight?

Q2 "I am working in a hospital," she said.

Q3 "We made a great dinner last night," he said.

Q4 "They were living in Chicago when their son was born," she said.

Q5 "I have been to India three times," Melissa said.

Q6 "We have been waiting for the tickets for three hours," they said.

Q7 He asked, "Had you ever been to New York before?"

Q8 "I am from Australia," Pam said.

Q9 "You must drive slowly here," the police officer told me.