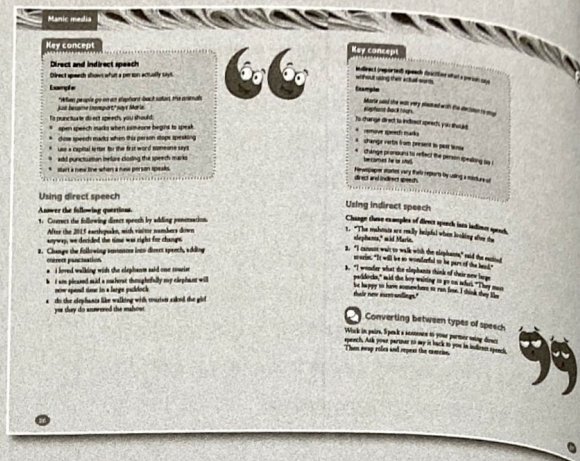


Punctuation – using direct and indirect speech

Prior knowledge

The focus of this spread is direct and indirect speech, and when to utilise both ways of reporting what somebody says. Start by asking students to draw five speech bubbles. Inside these, they should insert five brief rules about using direct and indirect speech. This should indicate any prior knowledge they have of direct and indirect speech. You might want to collect these afterwards to see how much is known by your class as a whole. The work can be anonymous. In an informal way, you could read out some of the speech bubbles to establish some rules and ideas.



Grammar

Using direct speech

Before starting on direct speech, review why we use specific speech marks in writing. If you are in a largely bilingual classroom, compare how speech marks differ in the different languages.

Explain that we constantly use reported speech to tell each other what someone has said – gossip in the playground, repeating a teacher's instructions to a friend, and so on. If students are struggling with this, review different ways we report what someone has said. Examples: groaned, sighed, shouted, moaned, whined.

Model on the board the following statements:

- "I'm giving you extra homework," said the teacher.
- "Oh no," groaned the students.
- The teacher told his students he was giving them extra homework and they all groaned.

Answers

1. "After the 2015 earthquake, with visitor numbers down anyway, we decided the time was right for change."
2. a. "I loved walking with the elephants," said one tourist.
b. "I am pleased," said a mahout thoughtfully. "My elephant will now spend time in a large paddock."
c. "Do the elephants like walking with tourists?" asked the girl. "Yes they do," answered the mahout.

Stretching students

You will note that these are suggested responses and students' responses could vary. You could differentiate by task here by suggesting that instead of using words such as *said* and *told*, different words such as *explained* and *argued*, which enhance the meaning, could be used.

Grammar

Using indirect speech

Answers

Accept any appropriate variation, including:

1. Marie said/reported that / According to Marie the mahouts were really helpful when looking after the elephants.
2. An excited tourist couldn't wait to walk with the elephants as it was so wonderful to be part of the herd.
3. A boy waiting to go on safari wondered aloud what the elephants thought of their new paddocks and whether they were happy to have somewhere to run free, before concluding they were happy.