** **

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: 6CS section: B, C, D, E, F

**Direct Speech and Reported Speech**

**Direct speech** is exactly what a person says. When we want to quote someone's exact words, we use quotation marks. For example:

* "The novel is really interesting," said Andrea.
* When we want to report what someone said, we do not use quotation marks. We report what they said, but we don't use their exact words. This is called **reported speech** or **indirect speech**.

For example:

* Andrea said the novel was really interesting.



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**Changes in Person, Place, Time, and Possessive Pronouns**

When we use indirect speech, we are reporting what someone else said in a different time and situation. Logically, we need to change some of the words from the original statement.

This happens with person, place, time, and possessive words.

For example:

* DIRECT SPEECH: "**You** are a very good employee."  
  REPORTED SPEECH: He said **I** was a very good employee.  
  (We need to change the **person** word.)
* DIRECT SPEECH: "It is sunny **here**."  
  REPORTED SPEECH: She said it was sunny **there**.  
  (We need to change the **place** word.)
* DIRECT SPEECH: "I went to a concert **yesterday**."  
  REPORTED SPEECH: She said she went to a concert **the day before**.  
  (We need to change the **time** word.)
* DIRECT SPEECH: "Harvey is **our** pet dog."  
  REPORTED SPEECH: She said Harvey is **their** pet dog.  
  (We need to change the **possessive** word.)

**Reporting Verbs**

There are some verbs that we use very often when we report what other people said.

* say
* tell
* warn
* promise
* announce
* mention

**Remember** that when we use the reporting verbs **tell** and **warn**, we always need to say **who**.

**For example:**

* Emily **told** **me** she had finished her project.
* The lifeguard **warned** **the swimmers** there could be sharks.
* It is important to remember that the word **that** in reported speech is **almost always optional**.

**For example:**

* They said there was a meeting at four o'clock.  
  OR  
  They said **that** there was a meeting at four o'clock.

**Tense Shift**

When we report what someone else has said, we are giving the information **at a later time**. They said something earlier, and we are reporting it now.

Because we are giving the information at a later time, we need to change the tense in the original statement so that it makes sense. We "**back-step**" with the verb tense.

For example, if the statement was made in the simple present, we report it in the simple past:

* "I **am** really tired," she said.
* She said she **was** really tired.

**Reporting with Modal Verbs**

Some common modal verbs must be changed when we use reported speech.

For example:

* "I **will** be there by dinnertime," she promised.
* She promised she **would** be here by dinnertime.
* "Sam **can** play with you today," Mrs. Groban told me.
* Mrs. Groban told me Sam **could** play with me yesterday.
* "You **must** wear formal clothes to the event," the director said.
* The director said I **had to** wear formal clothes to the event.
* "We **may** see a movie later," Ellen said.
* Ellen said they **might** see a movie later.
* "We **shall** be quite tired when we finish," said Dan.
* Dan said they **would** be quite tired when they finished.

Now, let's get some practice!



**Exercise 1:**

**Changes in Person, Place, Time, and Possessive Pronouns**



Fill in the blanks to correctly report what these people said.

1. "We are getting married this afternoon!"

They said they were getting married \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ afternoon.



2. "You don't understand!"

He said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ didn't understand.

3. “I love the *Toy Story* films.”

She said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the *Toy Story* films.

4. “I will phone you tomorrow.”

He said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2:**

**Tense Shift**

Complete the sentences for each picture using the correct tense shift.



1. "They are chatting about work,” he said.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. "That man is trying to get away,” she said.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. "I love everything about her,” he said.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. "We sing together on every concert.” They said.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. "I work in a bank," Danielle said.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 4:**

**Reporting with Modal Verbs**



1. "We shall both need a nap!"

He said they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ both need a nap.

2. "I must finish this assignment!"

He said he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ finish that assignment.

3. "I may have some ice cream for dessert."

He said he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have some ice cream for dessert.



4. "I will fix it!"

She said she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fix it.

5. "I can make a lot of money with this idea!"

He said he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ make a lot of money with his idea.

**Exercise 5:** Now try putting these direct speech sentences into indirect speech.

a. “I can’t afford those new trainers Sara!” explained dad.

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b. “It’s raining heavily!” remarked Uncle John.

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c. “I’m feeling terribly sick!” shouted Bob’s brother.

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d. “I’ll be leaving tomorrow!” shouted the tenant.

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e. “It’s a glorious day for a picnic!” said Grandma.

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f. The mountaineer boasted, “I could easily climb that mountain!”

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