

DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

Turn the following sentences into indirect speech.

1. John said, 'I am very busy now.'
2. He said, 'The horse has been fed.'
3. 'I know her name and address,' said John.
4. 'German is easy to learn,' she said.
5. He said, 'I am writing letters.'
6. 'It is too late to go out,' Alice said.
7. He said to me, 'I don't believe you.'
8. He says, 'I am glad to be here this evening.'
9. He said to me, 'What are you doing?'
10. 'Where is the post office?' asked the stranger.
11. He said, 'Will you listen to me?'
12. John said to Peter, 'Go away.'
13. She said to me, 'Please wait here till I return.'
14. 'Call the witness,' said the judge.
15. The speaker said, 'Be quiet and listen to my words.'

Answers

1. John said that he was very busy then.
2. He said that the horse had been fed.
3. John said that he knew/knows her name and address. (Note that the tenses may not change if the statement is still relevant or if it is a universal truth.)
4. She said that German is/was easy to learn.
5. He said that he was writing letters.
6. Alice said that it was too late to go out.
7. He told me that he didn't believe me. OR He said he didn't believe me.
8. He says that he is glad to be here this evening. (When the reporting verb is in the present tense, adverbs of time and place do not normally change in indirect speech.)
9. He asked me what I was doing.
10. The stranger asked where the post office is/was.
11. He asked me if I would listen to him.
12. John ordered Peter to go away.
13. She asked me to wait there till she returned.
14. The judge commanded them to call the first witness.
15. He urged them to be quiet and listen to them.

Exercise 1: Change into indirect speech

Read the following sentences and convert them into indirect speech.

1. Rahul told to me, "When are you leaving?"
2. "Where do you live?" the stranger asked Aladdin.
3. The teacher said to Shelly, "Why are you laughing?"
4. Dhronacharya said to Arjun, "Shoot the bird's eye."
5. "Call the first convict," said the jury.
6. "Call the ambulance," said the man.
7. Bruce said to me, "I shall do the work."
8. My mother said to me, "You were wrong."
9. Mr Richard said to me, "Please wait here till I return."
10. The captain said to me, "Bravo! You have played well."
11. Raj said, "Alas! My pet died."
12. Ruchi said, "I may go there."
13. Bucky said to Steve, "Do you hear me?"
14. The boy said, "Let me come in."
15. Granny said to me, "May God bless you."

Answers –

1. Rahul asked me when I was leaving.
2. The stranger asked Aladdin where he lived.
3. The teacher asked Shelly why he was laughing.
4. Dhronacharya ordered Arjun to shoot the fish's eye.
5. The jury ordered to call the first convict.
6. The man urged to call the ambulance.
7. Bruce said to me he would do the work.
8. My mother told me that I was wrong.
9. Mr Richard requested me to wait there till he returned.
10. The captain applauded me, saying that I had played well.
11. Raj exclaimed sadly that his pet died.
12. Ruchi said that she might go there.
13. Bucky asked Steve if he heard him.
14. The boy asked to let him come in.
15. Granny prayed that God might bless me.