

Indirect Speech

Mit der indirekten Rede (*indirect / reported speech*) gibt man wieder, was jemand gesagt hat.

Peter: „Ich mag das Eis!“

Klaus zu Bob: „Peter hat gesagt, dass er das Eis mag.“

1. Einleitung mit einem *reporting verb*

Die indirekte Rede wird von einem Verb des Sagens (*reporting verb*) eingeleitet, z.B.

I <i>said</i> that ...	Ich sagte, dass ...
She <i>told</i> me that ...	Sie erzählte mir, dass ...
They <i>explained</i> that ...	Sie erklärten, dass ...

Danach folgt bei einem Aussagesatz ein *that* („dass“). Das *that* kann auch wegfallen:

Susan says that she likes cats. = *Susan says she likes cats.*

2. Pronomen verändern sich:

Wie man oben sieht, verändern sich in der indirekten Rede manchmal die Pronomen – je nach dem, mit wem man spricht. So wird oben aus „ich“ in der indirekten Rede „er“, weil der Sprecher Peter ein Mann ist. Im Englischen genauso:

*Susan to Klaus: „I like **you**!“*

*Klaus to Bob: „Susan said that **she** liked **me**!“*

3. Orts- und Zeitangaben ändern sich:

this town	that town
these houses	those houses
today	that day
now	then
a week ago	a week before
last weekend	the weekend before / the previous weekend
tomorrow	the next day / the following day
here	there
next month	the month after that

3. Bei einem *reporting verb* in der Vergangenheit (hier: *said*) ändern sich die Zeiten.

will-future -> would + Infinitiv:

Bob *will help* Ken.

would + Infinitiv:

He said that Bob *would help* Ken.

going-to-future -> was/were going to + Infinitiv:

Bob *is going to help* Ken.

was / were going to + Infinitiv:

He said that Bob *was going to help* Ken.

simple present -> simple past:

Bob *helps* Ken.

simple past -> past perfect:

He said that Bob *helped* Ken.

past perfect:

... Bob *had helped* Ken.

present progressive -> past progressive:

Bob *is helping* Ken.

past progressive -> past perf. prog.

... Bob *was helping* Ken.

past perfect progressive:

... Bob *had been helping* Ken.

present perfect -> past perfect:

Bob *has helped* Ken.

past perfect

... Bob *had helped* Ken.

present perfect progressive -> past perf. progr.

Bob *has been helping* Ken.

past perfect progressive

... Bob *had been helping* Ken.

4. Fragen in der indirekten Rede

Fragen werden in der indirekten Rede genauso wiedergegeben wie Aussagesätze – d.h. mit Änderung der Pronomen, Orts- und Zeitangaben und gegebenenfalls backshift of tenses. Statt *that* verwenden wir hier jedoch *if* („ob“) oder ein Fragewort (*who, why, what ...*).

Mary: „Is your sister at home?“

Mary *asked me if my sister was at home.*

Mum: “Why didn’t you call me?“

Mum *wanted to know why I hadn’t called her.*

5. Befehle in der indirekten Rede

Um einen Befehl wiederzugeben, verwendet man ein **Verb des Befehlens** (meist *ask sb. to do sth.* oder *tell sb. to do sth.*) mit Objekt und (*not*)-*to-infinitive*.

Mum: Tidy up your room!

My mum **asked me to tidy up** my room.

Teacher: „Don’t talk!“

The teacher **told the students not to talk.**

EXERCISE 1 Schreibe in indirekte Rede um. Weil das *reporting verb* in der Gegenwart steht, musst du die Zeit der Verben nicht ändern. Achte nur auf Änderung der Person.

Ken tells me: „You’re my friend.“ „I’m in trouble.“	Ken tells me that ... I am his friend. he’s in trouble.
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a) Joseph: „We always spend the summer holidays in Greece because we have a house there.“

Joseph says that he and his family always spend the summer holidays in Greece because _____ have a house there.

b) Mara: “Jane told me everything.” – Mara says that Jane told _____ everything.

c) Steve: “You are an idiot.” – Steve tells me that _____ am an idiot.

d) Kate: “I’m cold.” – Kate says that _____ is cold.

e) Moira: “They aren’t listening.” Moira complains that _____.

f) Ken: “I came home late.” Ken says that _____.

EXERCISE 2 Schreibe in indirekte Rede um. Hier ist das *reporting verb* in der Vergangenheit – das heißt, die Zeiten müssen verändert werden. Alle Sätze sind im *simple past* oder *present perfect* – das heißt, die Verben müssen ins *past perfect* (I had played) gesetzt werden.

I play	I had played
I have played	
I didn’t play	I hadn’t played
I haven’t played	
was / were	had been
have been	

a) Biff: „I saw him.“

Biff claimed that he _____ him.

b) The twins: “We have finished our homework.“

The twins told their mum that they _____ their homework.

c) Jacob: “I have read your book.“

Jacob told me that he _____ my book.

d) Moira: “My son never answered my letters.“

Moira complained that her son _____ her letters.

e) Lucy: “They repaired the bikes.“

Lucy informed us that they _____ the bikes.

f) Walter: “I have prepared everything.“

Walter announced that he _____ everything.

g) Robin: "I didn't open your present."

Robin said to Elena that he _____ her present.

h) Sven: "I had no idea."

Sven claimed that he _____ no idea.

i) Saki: "I haven't seen your friend."

Saki said to Benjamin and Tom that she _____ their friend.

EXERCISE 3 *Present progressive, past progressive, present perfect progressive oder going-to-future*

– hier musst du nur die Form von *to be* ändern. Setze in die indirekte Rede.

am, is, are	was / were
was / were	had been
has been / have been	had been

a) Rob: "He **is** working in the garden!"

Rob announced that he _____ working in the garden.

b) Jack: "They **were** waiting for the bus."

Jack explained that they _____ for the bus.

c) Grandma: "I **was** making a cake."

Grandma told me that she _____ making a cake.

d) Kim: "I'm going to find him!"

Kim shouted that she _____ going to find him.

e) My brothers: "We **aren't** coming to the party."

My brothers said that they _____ coming to the party.

f) Nick: "You **are** going to be disappointed."

Nick promised that I _____ going to be disappointed.

g) Ruth: "She **is** sleeping."

Ruth said that she _____ sleeping.

h) You: "I **was** reading."

You said that you _____ reading.

EXERCISE 4 Will-future. Setze in die indirekte Rede!

I will go

I would go

a) Professor Smith: „I will help them.“

Professor Smith promised that _____

b) Lady McQueen: "They'll be on time."

Lady McQueen predicted that _____

c) Doctor Rider: "The time machine will work."

Doctor Rider convinced us that _____

d) Martin: "You'll find the answer."

Martin said that _____

EXERCISE 5 Alle Zeiten gemischt.

Jenny:

Jenny told me that ...

a) I'm going to fly to London.

she was going to fly to London.

b) Peter was in Chicago.

c) I'll finish the task later.

d) She is crying.

e) They have arrived.

f) You're right.

g) He called me.

h) Ken had written to my parents.

i) I wouldn't do that.

j) Lisa didn't leave.

k) Lisa and Ken aren't studying.

l) I like cats.

m) They must be quiet.

n) You were crying.

o) They've been mowing the lawn.

EXERCISE 6 Fragen. Schreibe die Fragen in indirekte Rede um.

Jenny:

Jenny wanted to know ...

a) "Will they come?"

b) "Why did she leave?"

c) "Who bought that chair?"

d) "What have you done?"

e) "Are you listening?"

f) "What has he been writing?"

g) "When did they arrive?"

h) "Is he going to help?"

i) "Why was he late?"

j) "How can I help?"

k) "What did they eat?"

l) "When will they deliver the pizza?"

m) "Did you see that man?"

EXERCISE 7 Commands. Übersetze die Befehle in indirekte Rede.

Jenny:

Jenny told me ...

- a) "Come back right now!"
- b) "Leave the door open!"
- c) "Don't pet the dog!"
- d) "Don't read my diary!"
- e) "Talk to somebody else!"
- f) "Don't sit on the armrest of the sofa!"
- g) "Don't forget your umbrella!"
- h) "Put on a warm jacket!"
- i) "Please be quiet!"
- j) "Do the dishes!"
- k) "Stop taking my stuff!"
- l) "Don't use my phone!"
- m) "Turn down the music!"

EXERCISE 8 Zeit- und Ortsangaben. Wie heißt es in der indirekten Rede?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. this evening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the next evening b) this evening c) that evening 2. today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that day b) today c) the day before 3. these cats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that cats b) those cats c) these cats 4. now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) at this time b) then c) before | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. a year ago <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) last year b) that year c) a year before 6. here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) there b) at this place c) back then 7. tomorrow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the next day b) the following day c) the previous day |
|--|---|

EXERCISE 9 Hier sind nun alle Zeiten und Satzformen (Frage, Aussage, Befehl) gemischt.
Schreibe in indirekte Rede um.

Example: Peter: I'd like to see the new movie.

Peter said he would like to ...

a) Lisa: Do you know why Jenny stopped meeting your brother?

Lisa asked me _____

b) Toby: I've been working really hard on this presentation and I hope I'll get a good mark.

Toby said that _____

c) Laura: My PE lesson yesterday was horrible because I wasn't feeling well.

Laura told Jeff that _____

d) Christine: I must thank Nick for lending me his book.

Christine told her friends that _____

e) Kathrin: My parents visited my aunt yesterday.

Kathrin mentioned that _____

f) Martin: I'm going to fly to Spain. What are you going to do during the holidays?

Martin told the twins that _____

and asked them _____

g) Sarah: Don't open this door!

Sarah advised us _____

h) Philipp: Enjoy yourself!

Philipp told her _____

i) Steve: I didn't go to school yesterday.

Steve explained that _____

j) Mrs Miller: It's not that difficult. Try again!

Mrs Miller said that _____

and encouraged her students _____

k) Debbie: Don't enter my room when I've left!

Debbie forbade me _____

l) Jimmy: Have you finished your essay on German literature?

Jimmy wanted to know _____

m) Carl: You're so annoying, Nick! Stop throwing paper balls at me!

Carl complained that Nick _____

and told him _____

o) Peter: When did you arrive?

Peter asked Sam _____

p) Jenny: Please do not disturb me now!

Jenny asked us _____

q) Mira: Did Tony really invite these girls to his party?

Mira wanted to know _____

r) Michael: I'm going to go to college next year.

Michael said that _____

s) Danny: Can you help me with this homework?

Danny asked Linda _____

EXERCISE 10. Schreibe in direkte Rede um.

a) Nick told me that he had been too late the week before.

Nick: " _____ "

b) Samuel asked me if I knew when the train was going to leave.

Samuel: _____

c) Damian said he wouldn't go to school the next day.

Damian: _____

d) Sarah complained that those tasks were too difficult.

Sarah: _____

e) James told me not to touch anything in the museum.

James: _____

f) Sally asked her friend if she could clean the kitchen for her.

Sally: _____

g) Carl explained that he hadn't had the time to prepare his presentation the day before.

Carl: _____

h) Carol said she didn't know what to do about the test.

Carol: _____

i) The teacher told the students to be quiet.

Teacher: _____

j) My friend said it was going to be difficult to get a book from the library during the holidays.

My friend: _____

k) Kelly's brother shouted that he would never work for that man.

Kelly's brother: _____

l) The children were asking if their teacher would return before the holidays.

The children: _____

Lösungen

- EXERCISE 1**
- a) Joseph: „We always spend the summer holidays in Greece because we have a house there.“
Joseph says that he and his family always spend the summer holidays in Greece because **they** have a house there.
- b) Mara: “Jane told me everything.” – Mara says that Jane told **her** everything.
- c) Steve: “You are an idiot.” – Steve tells me that **I** am an idiot.
- d) Kate: “I’m cold.” – Kate says that **she** is cold.
- e) Moira: “They aren’t listening.” Moira complains that **they aren’t listening**.
- f) Ken: “I came home late.” Ken says that **he came home late**.

- EXERCISE 2**
- a) Biff claimed that he **had seen** him.
- b) The twins told their mum that they **had finished** their homework.
- c) Jacob told me that he **had read** my book.
- d) Moira complained that her son **had never answered** her letters.
- e) Lucy informed us that they **had repaired** the bikes.
- f) Walter announced that he **had prepared** everything.
- g) Robin said to Elena that he **hadn’t opened** her present.
- h) Sven claimed that he **had had** no idea.
- i) Saki said to Benjamin and Tom that she **hadn’t seen** their friend.

EXERCISE 3

- a) Rob: “He is working in the garden!”
Rob announced that he **was** working in the garden.
- b) Jack: “They were waiting for the bus.”
Jack explained that they **had been** waiting for the bus.
- c) Grandma: “I was making a cake.”
Grandma told me that she **had been** making a cake.
- d) Kim: “I’m going to find him!”
Kim shouted that she **was** going to find him.
- e) My brothers: “We aren’t coming to the party.”
My brothers said that they **weren’t** coming to the party.
- f) Nick: “You are going to be disappointed.”
Nick promised that I **was** going to be disappointed.
- g) Ruth: “She is sleeping.”
Ruth said that she **was** sleeping.
- h) You: “I was reading.”
You said that you **had been** reading.

- EXERCISE 4**
- a) Professor Smith promised that **he would help them**.
- b) Lady McQueen predicted that **they would be on time**.
- c) Doctor Rider convinced us that **the time machine would work**.
- d) Martin said that **you would find the answer**.

EXERCISE 5 Alle Zeiten gemischt.

Jenny:

- a) I’m going to fly to London.
b) Peter was in Chicago.

Jenny told me that ...

- she was going to fly to London.*
Peter had been in Chicago.

c) I'll finish the task later.	<i>she would finish the task later.</i>
d) She is crying.	<i>she was crying.</i>
e) They have arrived.	<i>they had arrived.</i>
f) You're right.	<i>I was right.</i>
g) He called me.	<i>he had called her.</i>
h) Ken had written to my parents.	<i>Ken had written to her parents.</i>
i) I wouldn't do that.	<i>she wouldn't do that.</i>
j) Lisa didn't leave.	<i>Lisa hadn't left.</i>
k) Lisa and Ken aren't studying.	<i>Lisa and Ken weren't studying.</i>
l) I like cats.	<i>she liked cats.</i>
m) They must be quiet.	<i>they had to be quiet.</i>
n) You were crying.	<i>you had been crying.</i>
o) They've been mowing the lawn.	<i>they had been mowing the lawn.</i>

EXERCISE 6 Fragen. Schreibe die Fragen in indirekte Rede um.

Jenny:	Jenny wanted to know ...
a) "Will they come?"	<i>if they would come.</i>
b) "Why did she leave?"	<i>why she had left.</i>
c) "Who bought that chair?"	<i>who had bought that chair.</i>
d) "What have you done?"	<i>what I had done.</i>
e) "Are you listening?"	<i>if I was listening.</i>
f) "What has he been writing?"	<i>what he had been writing.</i>
g) "When did they arrive?"	<i>when they had arrived.</i>
h) "Is he going to help?"	<i>if he was going to help.</i>
i) "Why was he late?"	<i>why he had been late.</i>
j) "How can I help?"	<i>how she could help.</i>
k) "What did they eat?"	<i>what they had eaten.</i>
l) "When will they deliver the pizza?"	<i>when they would deliver the pizza.</i>
m) "Did you see that man?"	<i>if I had seen that man.</i>

EXERCISE 7 Commands. Übersetze die Befehle in indirekte Rede.

Jenny:	Jenny told me ...
a) "Come back right now!"	<i>to come back right now (then).</i>
b) "Leave the door open!"	<i>to leave the door open.</i>
c) "Don't pet the dog!"	<i>not to pet the dog.</i>
d) "Don't read my diary!"	<i>not to read her diary.</i>
e) "Talk to somebody else!"	<i>to talk to somebody else.</i>
f) "Don't sit on the armrest of the sofa!"	<i>not to sit on the armrest of the sofa.</i>
g) "Don't forget your umbrella!"	<i>not to forget my umbrella.</i>
h) "Put on a warm jacket!"	<i>to put on a warm jacket.</i>
i) "Please be quiet!"	<i>to be quiet.</i>
j) "Do the dishes!"	<i>to do the dishes.</i>
k) "Stop taking my stuff!"	<i>to stop taking her stuff.</i>
l) "Don't use my phone!"	<i>not to use her phone.</i>
m) "Turn down the music!"	<i>to turn down the music.</i>

EXERCISE 8 Zeit- und Ortsangaben. Wie heißt es in der indirekten Rede?

<p>1. this evening</p> <p>d) the next evening</p> <p>e) this evening</p> <p>f) that evening</p> <p>2. today</p> <p>d) that day</p> <p>e) today</p> <p>f) the day before</p> <p>3. these cats</p> <p>d) that cats</p> <p>e) those cats</p> <p>f) these cats</p> <p>4. now</p> <p>d) at this time</p> <p>e) then</p> <p>f) before</p>	<p>5. a year ago</p> <p>d) last year</p> <p>e) that year</p> <p>f) a year before</p> <p>6. here</p> <p>d) there</p> <p>e) at this place</p> <p>f) back then</p> <p>7. tomorrow</p> <p>d) the next day</p> <p>e) the following day</p> <p>f) the previous day</p>
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EXERCISE 9

a) Lisa: Do you know why Jenny stopped meeting your brother?

Lisa asked me **why Jenny had stopped meeting my brothers.**

b) Toby: I've been working really hard on this presentation and I hope I'll get a good mark.

Toby said that **he had been working really hard on this presentation and that he hoped he would get a good mark.**

c) Laura: My PE lesson yesterday was horrible because I wasn't feeling well.

Laura told Jeff that **her PE lesson the day before had been horrible because she hadn't been feeling well.**

d) Christine: I must thank Nick for lending me his book.

Christine told her friends that **she had to thank Nick for lending her his book.**

e) Kathrin: My parents visited my aunt yesterday.

Kathrin mentioned that **her parents had visited her aunt the day before.**

f) Martin: I'm going to fly to Spain. What are you going to do during the holidays?

Martin told the twins that **he was going to fly to Spain** and asked them **what they were going to do during the holidays.**

g) Sarah: Don't open this door!

Sarah advised us **not to open this door.**

h) Philipp: Enjoy yourself!

Philipp told her **to enjoy herself.**

i) Steve: I didn't go to school yesterday.

Steve explained that **he hadn't gone to school the day before.**

j) Mrs Miller: It's not that difficult.

Mrs Miller said that **it wasn't that difficult** and encouraged her students **to try again.**

k) Debbie: Don't enter my room when I've left!

Debbie forbade me **to enter her room when she had left.**

l) Jimmy: Have you finished your essay on German literature?

Jimmy wanted to know if **I / you ... had finished my / your ... essay on German literature.**

m) Carl: You're so annoying, Nick! Stop throwing paper balls at me!

Carl complained that Nick **was so annoying** and told him **to stop throwing paper balls at him**.

o) Peter: When did you arrive?

Peter asked Sam **when he had arrived**.

p) Jenny: Please do not disturb me now!

Jenny asked us **not to disturb him then**.

q) Mira: Did Tony really invite these girls to his party?

Mira wanted to know **if Tom had really invited those girls to his party**.

r) Michael: I'm going to go to uni next year.

Michael said that **he was going to go to college the following year**.

s) Danny: Can you help me with this homework?

Danny asked Linda **to help him with that homework**.

EXERCISE 10 Schreibe in direkte Rede um.

a) Nick told me that he had been too late the week before.

Nick: **I was late last week**.

b) Samuel asked me if I knew when the train was going to leave.

Samuel: **Do you know when the train is going to leave?**

c) Damian said he wouldn't go to school the next day.

Damian: **I won't go to school tomorrow**.

d) Sarah complained that those tasks were too difficult.

Sarah: **These tasks are too difficult**.

e) James told me not to touch anything in the museum.

James: **Don't touch anything in the museum**.

f) Sally asked her friend if she could clean the kitchen for her.

Sally: **Can you clean the kitchen for me?**

g) Carl explained that he hadn't had the time to prepare his presentation the day before.

Carl: **I didn't have the time to prepare my presentation yesterday**.

h) Carol said she didn't know what to do about the test.

Carol: **I don't know what to do about the test**.

i) The teacher told the students to be quiet.

Teacher: **Be quiet!**

j) My friend said it was going to be difficult to get a book from the library during the holidays.

My friend: **It's going to be difficult to get a book from the library during the holidays**.

k) Kelly's brother shouted that he would never work for that man.

Kelly's brother: **I will never work for that man! / I would never work for that man!**

l) The children were asking if their teacher would return before the holidays.

The children: **Will our teacher return before the holidays?**