Functional English I

Lecture 9

Direct and Indirect Speech

- We may report the words of a speaker in two ways:
  - We may quote his actual words. This is called *Direct Speech*
  - We may report what he said without quoting his exact words. This is called *Indirect or Reported speech*

Direct and Indirect Speech

- For example,
  - Direct – Shahid said, “I am very busy now.”
  - Indirect – Shahid said that he was very busy then.

Direct and Indirect Speech

- It will be noticed that in Direct Speech, we use inverted commas to mark off the exact words of the speaker
- In Indirect Speech we do not
- It will be further noticed that in changing above Direct Speech into Indirect certain changes have been made

Direct and Indirect Speech

- Thus:
  - We have used the conjunction that before the Indirect statement (The ‘that’ is often omitted especially in spoken English)
  - The pronoun I is changed to he
  - The verb am is changed to was (Present Tense is changed to Past)
  - The adverb now is changed to then

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- When the reporting or principal verb is in the Past Tense, all Present tenses of the Direct are changed in to the corresponding Past Tenses
- Thus,
  - (a) A simple present becomes a simple past
  - Direct – He said, “I am unwell.”
  - Indirect – He said (*that*) he was unwell

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- (b) A present continuous becomes a past continuous

  - Direct – He said, “My master is writing letters.”

  - Indirect – He said (*that*) his master was writing letters.

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- (c) A present perfect becomes a past perfect

  - Direct – He said, “I have passed the examination.”

  - Indirect – He said (*that*) he had passed the examination.

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- The *shall* of the Future Tense is changed into *should*
- The *will* of the Future Tense is changed into *would* or *should*
- As a rule, the simple past in the Direct becomes the past perfect in the Indirect
  - Direct – He said, “The horse died in the night.”
  - Indirect – He said that the horse had died in the night.

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- The tenses may not change if the statement is still relevant or if it is a universal truth

- We can often choose whether to keep the original tenses or change them

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- Direct – “I know her address,” said Fatima
- Indirect – Fatima said she knows/knew her address

- Direct – The teacher said, “The earth goes round the sun.”
- Indirect – The teacher said the earth goes/went round the sun

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- The past tense is often used when it is uncertain if the statement is true or when we are reporting objectively

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- If the reporting verb is in the Present Tense, the tenses of the Direct Speech do not change
- For example, we may rewrite previous examples, putting the reporting verb in the Present Tense, thus,
  - He says he is unwell
  - He says he has passed the examination
  - He says the horse died in the night

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- The pronouns of the Direct Speech are changed, where necessary, so that their relations with the reporter and his hearer, rather than with the original speaker, are indicated
- For example,
  - Direct – He said to me, “I don’t believe you.”
  - Indirect – He said he didn’t believe me

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- Words expressing nearness in time or place are generally changed into words expressing distance, thus,
- Now becomes Then
- Here becomes There
- Ago becomes Before
- Thus becomes So
- Today becomes That Day

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- Direct – He says, “I am glad to be here this evening.”
- Indirect – He says that he was glad to be there that evening

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- The changes do not occur if the speech is reported during the same period or at the same place, e.g.
  - Direct – He said, “I am glad to be here this evening.”
  - Indirect – He said that he was glad to be there that evening

Rules for changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

- Similarly, *this* and *these* are changed to *that* and *those* unless the thing pointed out is near at hand at the time of reporting the speech

Questions

- In reporting questions the Indirect Speech is introduced by some such verbs as asked, inquired, etc.
- When the question is not introduced by an interrogative word, the reporting verb is followed by whether or if, e.g.
  - Direct – He said to me, “What are you doing?”
  - Indirect – He asked me what I was doing.

Questions

- Direct – The policeman said to us, “Where are you going?”
- Indirect – The policeman enquired where we were going.
- Direct – He said, “Will you listen to such a man?”
- Indirect – He asked them whether they would listen to such a man.

Commands and Requests

- In reporting commands and requests, the Indirect Speech is introduced by some verb expressing command or request, and the Imperative mood is changed into the Infinitive
- For example,
  - Direct – Ahmed said to Aryan, “Go away.”
  - Indirect – Ahmed ordered Aryan to go away.
  - Direct – He said to him, “Please wait here till I return.”
  - Indirect – He requested him to wait there till he returned.

Commands and Requests

- Direct – “Call the first witness,” said the judge.
- Indirect – The judge commanded them to call the first witness.
- Direct – He shouted, “Let me go.”
- Indirect – He shouted to them to let him go.
- Direct – He said, “Be quiet and listen to my words.”
- Indirect – He urged them to be quiet and listen to his words.

Exclamations and Wishes

- In reporting exclamations and wishes the Indirect Speech is introduced by some verb expressing exclamation or wish
- For example,
  - Direct – He said, “Alas! I am undone.”
  - Indirect – He exclaimed sadly that he was undone.
  - Direct – Alice said, “How clever I am!”
  - Indirect – Alice exclaimed that she was very clever.

Exclamations and Wishes

- Direct – He said, “Bravo! You have done well.”
- Indirect – He applauded him, saying that he had done well.
- Direct – “So help me, Heaven!” he cried, “I will never copy again.”
- Indirect – He called upon Heaven to witness his resolve never to copy again.