

9 Indirect speech

85 Indirect speech: statements

■ PEG 307–8, 313

1 Students are asked to assume that these sentences are spoken and reported on different days. This will mean that a sentence such as: He said, 'I am coming *tomorrow*,' will become: He said that he was coming *the next day*, and so on.

This applies to all the exercises on indirect speech in this book.

2 With indirect speech, when the person addressed is mentioned, **tell** is more usual than **say to** as an introductory verb. For example:

He told me that he was going away the next day
is more usual than

He said to me that he was going away the next day.

Put the following into indirect speech.

- 1 'I have something to show you,' I said to her.
- 2 'Nothing grows in my garden. It never gets any sun,' she said.
- 3 'I'm going away tomorrow, mother,' he said.
- 4 'I've been in London for a month but so far I haven't had time to visit the Tower,' said Rupert.
- 5 'It isn't so foggy today as it was yesterday,' I remarked.
- 6 'The new underpass is being officially opened the day after tomorrow,' said the BBC announcer.
- 7 'We have moved into our new flat. We don't like it nearly so much as our last one,' said my aunt.
- 8 'We have a lift but very often it doesn't work,' they said.
- 9 'From one of the windows of my flat I can see the Eiffel Tower,' he said.
- 10 'I've no idea what the time is but I'll dial 8081 and find out,' said his daughter.
- 11 He said, 'My wife has just been made a judge.'
- 12 'I'll come with you as soon as I am ready,' she replied.
- 13 'I have a German lesson this afternoon and I haven't done my homework yet,' said the small boy.
- 14 'If you let the iron get too hot you will scorch your clothes,' I warned her.
- 15 'You haven't given me quite enough. The bill is for £14 and you've paid me only £13,' he pointed out.

87 Indirect speech: questions

■ PEG 317

Put the following into indirect speech. The first ten questions require no change of order:

He said, 'What is happening?'

He asked what was happening.

- 1 'What happened to Mr Budd?' said one of the men.
- 2 'Which of his sons inherited his estate?' asked another.
- 3 'Who is going to live in the big house?' enquired a third.
- 4 'What will happen to his racehorses?' asked someone else.
- 5 'Which team has won?' asked Ann.
- 6 'Which team won the previous match?' said Bill.
- 7 'Who is playing next week?' he asked.
- 8 'Who will be umpiring that match?' asked Tom.
- 9 'Who wants a lift home?' said Ann.
- 10 'Who has just dropped a £10 note?' I asked.
- 11 'Where is the ticket office?' asked Mrs Jones.
- 12 'What shall I do with my heavy luggage?' she said. (*Use should.*)
- 13 'What platform does the train leave from?' asked Bill.
- 14 'When does it arrive in York?' he asked.
- 15 'When was the timetable changed?' I asked.
- 16 'Why has the 2.30 train been cancelled?' said Ann.
- 17 'How much does a day return to Bath cost?' Mrs Jones asked.
- 18 'Why does the price go up so often?' she wondered.
- 19 'How can I get from the station to the airport?' said Bill.
- 20 'When are you coming back?' I asked them.
- 21 'Is a return ticket cheaper than two singles?' said my aunt.
- 22 'Do puppies travel free?' asked a dog owner.

90 Indirect speech: commands, requests, advice expressed by object + infinitive

▣ PEG 320

Indirect commands, requests, etc. are normally expressed by **tell, order, ask, beg, advise, remind, warn**, etc., with the person addressed and the infinitive. Change the following direct commands into indirect commands using this construction. Remember that the person addressed is often not mentioned in a direct command:

He said, 'Go away',

but must be mentioned in an indirect command:

He told me (Tom/us/them, etc.) to go away.

- 1 'Switch off the TV,' he said to her.
- 2 'Shut the door, Tom,' she said.
- 3 'Lend me your pen for a moment,' I said to Mary.
- 4 'Don't watch late-night horror movies,' I warned them.
- 5 'Don't believe everything you hear,' he warned me.
- 6 'Please fill up this form,' the secretary said.
- 7 'Don't hurry,' I said.
- 8 'Don't touch that switch, Mary,' I said.

- 9 'Open the safe!' the raiders ordered the bank clerk.
- 10 'Please do as I say,' he begged me.
- 11 'Help your mother, Peter,' Mr Pitt said.
- 12 'Don't make too much noise, children,' he said.
- 13 'Do whatever you like,' she said to us.
- 14 'Don't miss your train,' she warned them.
- 15 'Read it before you sign it,' he said to his client.
- 16 'Do sing it again,' he said.
- 17 'Don't put your hands near the bars,' the zoo keeper warned us.
- 18 'Buy a new car,' I advised him.
- 19 'Don't drive too fast,' she begged him.
- 20 'Don't lean your bicycles against my windows, boys,' said the shopkeeper.