

2. Reported Speech

{When we want to quote what a person has said, we can do it in two ways. We can use either the person's exact words (direct speech) or we can report their speech without using their own words (indirect/reported speech). When changing a speech from direct to indirect, we have to change the pronouns in accordance with the change of the perspective. If the reporting verb is in the past tense, there should be a back-shifting of the tense of the verbs in reported clause. Similarly, words showing nearness in time and place should be replaced by words showing distance in time and place/situation. In the reported speech, the reporting clause and the reported clause are connected as follows:

- The linking word 'that' is used for statements/declarative sentences.
- The same question word is used for 'wh-questions'.
- The word 'if' or 'whether' is used for 'yes/no answer questions.
- The 'to infinitive' form is used for commands/requests (imperative sentences)
- The exclamatory sentences are changed into statements and reported using 'that'.

(Question from SCERT Question Pool)

Question 1

Read the conversation given below and answer the questions that follow.

Vanka: Where can I post the letter?

The man: You can post it in the post box.

a. What did Vanka ask the man?

b. What did the man reply?

Question 2

Read the following conversation.

Satyajit Ray :Why did you bring two tigers?

Mr Thorat: I decided to play it safe.

Now, complete the following sentences.

- a. Satyajit Ray asked Mr Thorat _____.**
b. Mr Thorat replied _____.

Question 3

Read the conversation given below and answer the questions that follow.

Doctor: What do you want?
John: I want to speak to you.

- a. What did Doctor ask John?**
b. What did John reply?

Question 4

Read the conversation given below and answer the questions that follow.

Ali: Can I take these potatoes?
Akbar: Take the potatoes kept on the floor.

- a. What did Ali ask Akbar?**
b. Akbar told Ali _____.

Question 5

Read the following conversation.

Zahra: Where are my shoes?
Ali: I lost it somewhere in the store.

Now, complete the following sentences.

- a. Zahra asked Ali _____.**
b. Ali replied _____.

Question 6

Read the following conversation and answer the questions given below.

Doctor: What are you doing?
Mr John: I am a solicitor by profession.

- a. What did Doctor ask Mr John?
- b. What did Mr John reply?

Question 7

Read the following dialogue.

Martha: Grandpa, I've to pay fifteen dollars for the jacket.
Grandpa: I'm not ready to pay for a scholarship jacket.

Now, complete the following sentences.

- a. Martha told Grandpa _____.
- b. Grandpa said _____

Question 8

Read the following dialogue.

Principal: What did your grandfather say?
Martha: Grandfather will not give the money.

Now, complete the following sentences.

- a. The Principal asked _____.
- b. Martha replied _____.

Question 9

Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow.
Mr Schmidt :Martha has scored the highest marks all these years.
Mr Boone: Joann's father is a board member.

Now, complete the following sentences.

- a. Mr Schmidt told _____.
- b. Mr Boone said _____.

Question 10

Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow.
Boy: Where did you get the rabbit from?
Father: I picked it up from the forest.

- a. What did the boy ask the father?
- b. What was father's reply?

Question 11 (From Orukkam 2017)

Alyakhin: What are you doin?

Vanka: I am writing a letter.

- a) Alyakhin asked Vanka.....
- b) Vanka replied that.....

Question 12

Manager: How many days do you need a tiger?

Ray: I want it for two days.

- a) What did the manager ask Ray?
- b) What was Ray’s reply?

Question 13

Iota: What is this?

Oop: I don’t know I have never seen anything like this.

- a) Iota asked
- b) Oop replied that.....

Answers

Question 1

- a. Vanka asked the man where he could post the letter.
- b. The man replied that he could post it in the post box.

Question 2

- a. Satyajith Ray asked Mr. Thorat why he had brought two tigers.
- b. Mr.Thorat replied that he had decided to play it safe.

Question 3

- a. The doctor asked John what he wanted.
- b. John replied that he wanted to speak to him.

Question 4

- a. Ali asked Akbar if he could take those potatoes.
- b. Akbar told Ali to take the potatoes kept on the floor.

Question 5

- a. Zahra asked Ali where her shoes were.
- b. Ali replied that he had lost it somewhere in the store.

Question 6

- a. The doctor asked Mr John what he was doing.
- b. Mr John replied that he was a solicitor by profession.

Question 7

- a. Martha told Grandpa that she had to pay fifteen dollars for the jacket.
- b. Grandpa said that he was not ready to pay for a scholarship jacket.

Question 8

- a. The principal asked what her grandfather had said.
- b. Martha replied that (her/the) grandfather would not give the money.

Question 9

- a. Mr. Schmidt told that Martha had scored highest marks all those years.
- b. Mr. Boone said that Joann's father was a board member.

Question 10

- a. The boy asked the father where he had got the rabbit from.
- b. The father's reply was that he had picked it up from the forest.

Question 11

Alyakhin asked Vanka what he was doing.
Vanka replied that he was writing a letter.

Question 12

- a) The manager asked Ray how many days he needed a tiger.
- b) Ray's reply was that he wanted it for two days.

Question 13

- a) Iota asked what that was.
- b) Oop replied that he didn't know he had never seen anything like that.

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