

Exceptions in Direct and Indirect Speech for SSC, Banking Exams

Reported Speech or Direct & Indirect Speech is one of the trickiest topics in Grammar. Not only must you have a good understanding of the Rules of Converting Direct and Indirect Speech, but you must also be aware of the **Exceptions in Direct and Indirect Speech**.

Before you begin with exceptions to the rule, however, you must know the Basics of Direct & Indirect Speech, and also make sure you don't fall for the common misconceptions surrounding Reported Speech. So you should start here:

Basic Rules for Converting Direct & Indirect Speech

Common Misconceptions in Direct & Indirect Speech

Case 1:

He said, "I saw the sun rising in the east."

He said that he **had seen** the sun rising in the east.

Case 2:

He said, "Sun rises in the East."

He said that Sun **rises** in the East.

In case 1 and 2, the Reporting Verb is in the past tense (said) but still the tense of only Case 1 is changed. There are certain exceptions that follow the change of tense.

Exception #1: The tense of the verb doesn't change even if the Reporting verb is in past tense for the following cases.

(i) Universal/ Scientific Truths:

E.g. She said, “Water boils at 100 degree Celsius.”
She said that water boils at 100 degree Celsius.

(ii) Historical Facts:

E.g. The teacher said, “Kalidas is the Shakespeare of India.”
The teacher said that Kalidas is the Shakespeare of India.

(iii) Proverbs:

E.g. Mohan said, “Where there is a will there is a way.”
Mohan said that where there is a will there is a way.

(iv) Habitual Facts:

E.g. She said, “I snooze my alarm everyday.”
She said that she snoozes her alarm every day.

Exception #2: The connector isn't always 'that' for the following cases.

(i) Interrogative Sentences:

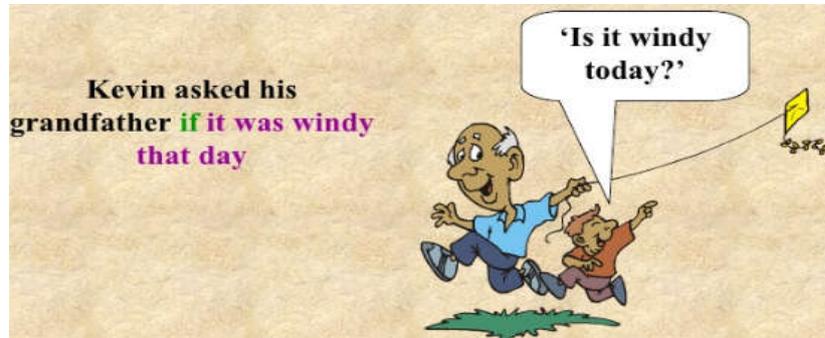
Type 1 - Yes/No type question:

'If/whether' is used instead of 'that'.

Example:

John said to Joanna, “Are you supporting Hilary Clinton?”

John asked Joanna **whether** she was supporting Hilary Clinton.



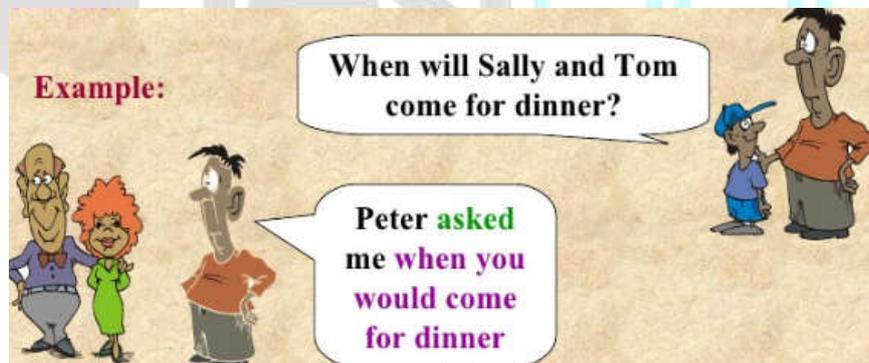
Type 2 - 'Wh' type question:

The same '**Wh**' used in the direct speech is used instead of '**that**'.

Example:

He said, "When **is** Priyanka **leaving** for Canada?"

He asked **when** Priyanka **was leaving** for Canada.



(ii) Imperative Sentences:

The sentences that give **advice, order, request or suggestion**.
'To' is used instead of '**that**' as a connector.

Tip!

Use the words **ordered, begged, pleaded, implored, advised, demanded, forbade etc.** instead of '**said**' as per the tone of the sentence.

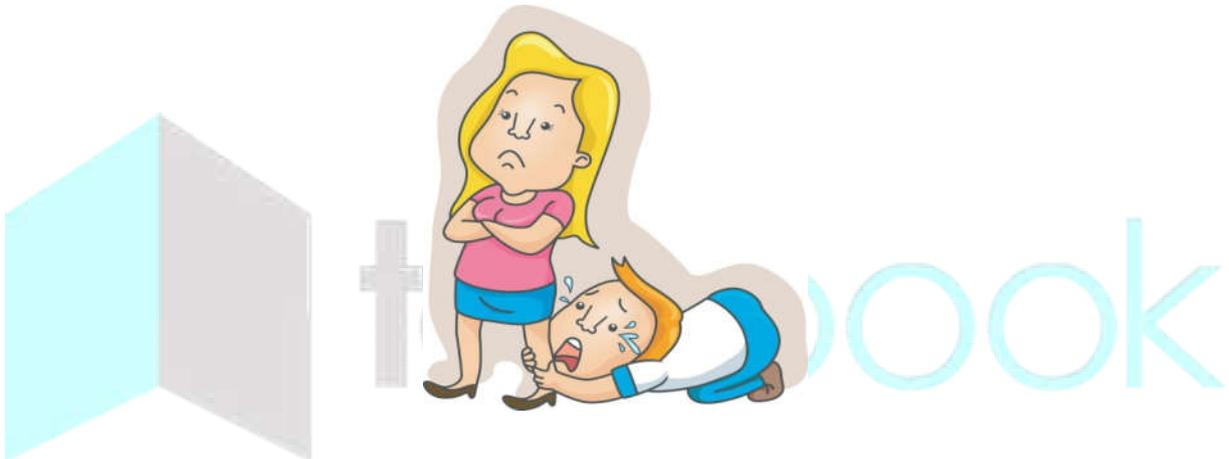
Examples:

The teacher said to me, "Go in your class and learn your lesson."

The teacher ordered me **to** go in my class and learn my lesson.

He said to her, "Please don't leave me."

He pleaded her not **to** leave him.



Note: The structure of the indirect speech is always an Assertive Sentence following the structure (subject + helping verb + verb+ object).

[Basics of Active & Passive Voice](#)

[Phrasal Verbs Made Easy Capsule 1 in PDF](#)

[Phrasal Verbs Made Easy Capsule 2 in PDF](#)