

# 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:**

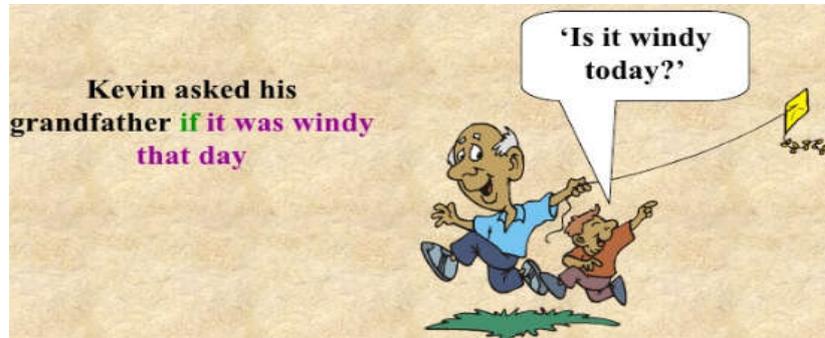
**Type 1 - Yes/No type question:**

*'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.



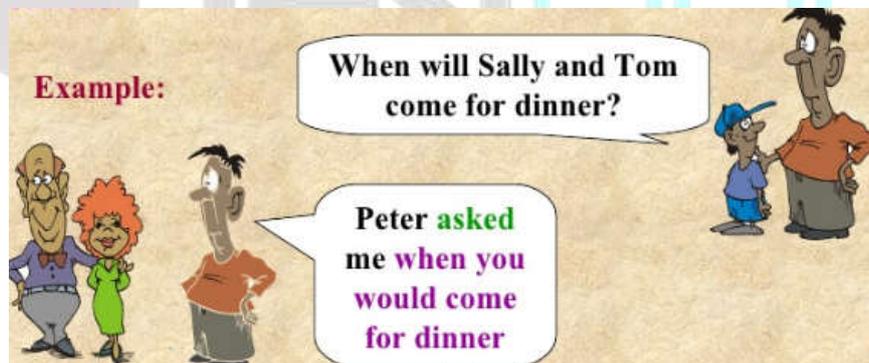
**Type 2 - 'Wh' type question:**

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.

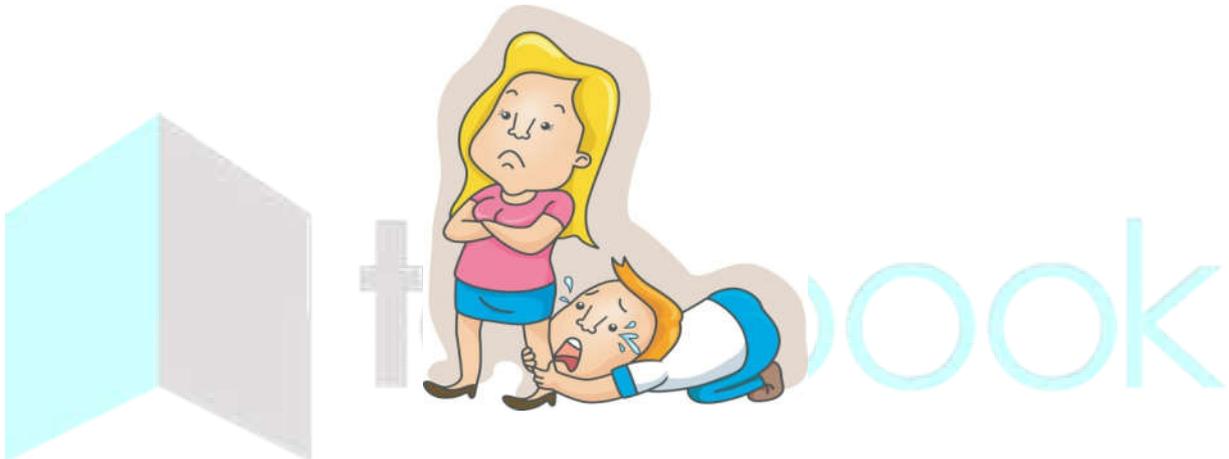
**Examples:**

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](#)**