

# Direct and indirect speech

Mum said: "go make your bed!"

"Whose computer is this?" John asked.

The Constitution of the United States recites:  
"We the people of the United States..."

In inglese, il discorso diretto prevede un utilizzo simile all'italiano, ovvero un verbo dichiarativo (reporting verbs) che introduce una frase separata rispetto al corpo del testo tramite virgolette o trattini (dash).

Il verbo più comune utilizzato per il discorso diretto è TO SAY. È raro incontrare il verbo TO TELL a svolgere la stessa funzione.

Altri reporting verbs sono: to argue, to suggest, to claim, to exclaim, to affirm, to declare.

# Say VS tell

To say

= Dire

To tell

She said "you're an idiot!"

She told him he's an idiot.

# TELL

Il verbo 'tell' è normalmente seguito dall'oggetto indiretto.

She told me the news.

I told my brother to get a pizza.

Essendo usato per il riscontro indiretto, il verbo TELL si utilizza in riferimento a frasi, non al contenuto di frasi:

She told me a nice joke.

I'll tell you a story.

You are not supposed to tell lies.

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In questi casi il verbo tell non fornisce il contenuto di queste strutture discorsive (joke, story, lie), nella fattispecie non dice il contenuto della storia o dello scherzo.

# SAY



Il verbo SAY si può utilizzare sia per introdurre un discorso diretto sia uno indiretto. Si può utilizzare per riportare brevi parti del discorso. Il verbo SAY viene seguito dal destinatario solo se quest'ultimo costituisce un'informazione essenziale ai fini della chiarezza del discorso.

He said hello to Paul, but completely ignored me.

SAY non è mai seguito da un infinito.

\*He says to feel sad. (X)

He said that he felt sad. (V)

He said he felt sad. (V)

He said that he was feeling sad. (V)

Disse di sentirsi triste (V)

Disse che si sentiva triste. (V)



1. He \_\_\_\_\_ me that he was from France.
2. We just sat there and didn't \_\_\_\_\_ a word.
3. You're not \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. \_\_\_\_\_ what you really believe.
4. He's \_\_\_\_\_ the children a bed-time story.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ goodbye to his wife and she \_\_\_\_\_ him not to be late.
6. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ the time, please?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ that again, please.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ me what he \_\_\_\_\_, every word.

# Indirect Discourse

Did he say something like that? I asked.

I asked if he (had) said something like that.

I will go.

He said he would go.

# Present simple & Present perfect

I like football

He says (that) he likes football

Do you like football?

He asks if I like football!

Have you ever been abroad?

He asks if I have ever been abroad.

# Past tenses

I live in London.

She said she lived in London.

I'm working just now.

He said he was working just then.

I've already seen that movie.

He said he had already seen that movie.

I saw it on tuesday.

She said she had seen it  
on tuesday.

I was studying at  
the time.

She said she had been  
studying at the time.

I've been studying  
all day.

He had been studying all  
Day.

# Future tenses

I'll see him later.

She said she would see him later.

I'm going to see him later.

She said she was going to see him later.

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Essendo il futuro nel passato un condizionale composto, l'unica cosa da tenere presente è che **will** diventa **would** e non would have.

# Attenzione alle frasi condizionali!

If it **rains** we'**ll** stay at home.

She said that if it **rained**, we **would** stay at home.

If it **rained**, we **would** stay at home.

He said that if it **rained**, they **would** stay at home.

If it **had rained**, we **would have stayed** at home.

She said that if it **had rained**, we **would have stayed** at home.

# Modali

I can go.

He said he could go.

I may go.

He said he might go.

I'll go.

He said he would go.

I must go.

He said he had to go.

I should go.

He said he should go.



I could go.

He said he could go.

I might go.

He said he might go.

I needn't go.

He said he needn't/didn't  
need to go.

I mustn't go.

He said he mustn't go.

1. If we miss the train, we won't get there until noon.

He told her...

2. How old are you?

She asked him...

3. I called you ten times! What have you been doing until now?

She said....

4. You are going to miss your train if you don't hurry up!

He said...

5. Oh well, as usual I suppose I will have to do it myself.

Mum said...

6. What do you think about the current situation?

I was asked...