

Rule (1) : If the reporting verb is in 'past', the tense of the reported speech changes as following:

Tense of Reported Speech

Direct Narration

- (i) Present Indefinite
- (ii) Present Continuous
- (ii) Present Perfect
- (iv) Present Perfect Continuous
- (v) Past Indefinite
- (vi) Past Continuous

Indirect Narration

- Past Indefinite
- Past Continuous
- Past Perfect
- Past Perfect Continuous
- Past Perfect
- Past Perfect
- Past Perfect
- Past Perfect
- Past Perfect
- Past Perfect
- No change of tense
- No change of tense

Change in Future Sentences (Reported Speech)

- (i) Will/shall
- (ii) Can
- (m) May
- (iv) Could/should/would/Might

- Would/should
- Could
- Might
- No change

Rule (2) : When the reporting verb is in 'past' words denoting time or place in reported speech change as following:

Direct Narration

- (i) This
- (ii) These
- (iii) Here
- (iv) Hence
- (v) Hither
- (vi) Now
- (vii) Ago
- (viii) Thus
- (ix) Today
- (x) Tomorrow
- (xi) Yesterday

Indirect Narration

- That
- Those
- There
- Thence
- Thither
- Then
- Before
- So
- That day
- The next day/ the following day
- The previous day

(xii) Last week/month/year

The previous week/month /year

(xiii) The last fortnight

The previous fortnight

(xiv) The day before yesterday

The day before the previous day

Rule (3) : If the reported speech contains; universal truth, proverb, mathematical fact, historical fact, habitual act, an expression of morality or an unchanged fact, the tense of the reported speech remains unchanged.

Examples:

- (a) He said, "The sun sets in the west". (universal truth) **(Direct)**
He said that the sun sets in the west. **(Indirect)**
- (b) The teacher said, "A stitch in time saves nine". (proverb) **(Direct)**
The teacher said that a stitch in time saves nine. **(Indirect)**

Specific Rules Interrogative Sentences

Interrogative Sentences can be classified in two types:

(1) Yes/No questions: That can be answered in yes or no.

(2) Wh questions: Questions begin with Wh words. What. Where, Which, Who, How, etc.

Yes/No questions

Rule (1) : Use conjunction if or 'whether' in place of 'that' Whether is used when the question expresses an alternative.

Example:

She said to me, "Do you like tea or coffee?"

(Direct)

She asked me whether I liked tea or coffee. **(Indirect)**



Rule (2) : Remove the question mark (?) and the interrogative sentence (the question) is changed to assertive sentence (Subject + verb +...).

Rule (3) : Reporting verb ask, asks, asked is used in indirect narrations. We can also use inquire or enquire of. Enquire of is used when an object follows it. For example: He enquired of me.

Rule (4) : Other rules in respect to the change of pronouns and change of tense are also to be followed.

Example:

She said to me. "Are you going to college?" (**Direct**)

She asked me if I was going to college. (**Indirect**)

Sometimes an answer is also attached with the main question in that case yes is changed into affirmation and 'no' into negation. She said to me, "Can you solve this question?" "No I said She asked me if I could solve that question. I said I couldn't or I replied in negative

Questions beginning with 'Wh' words.

Rule (1) : In questions beginning with Wh words, no conjunction (that, if, whether) is used instead the Wh word itself functions as conjunction.

Rule (2) : The interrogative sentence is changed into assertive (**Subject + verb +**)

Example:

He said to her. "What do you want?" (**Direct**)

He asked her what she wanted. (**Indirect**)

Practice Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 1 - 30) Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence, the number of the part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (5).

1. The child asked his mother (1)/ whether (2)/she was going (3)/ to office today. (4)/No error (5)
2. The queen eagerly (1)/ wished that (2)/ she will be (3)/ young again. (4)/No error (5)
3. The officer warned him that (1)/he would be dismissed (2)/ if he does not attend (3)/the office regularly. (4)/ No error (5)
4. Ram asked (1)/me as if (2)/what (3)/I was doing. (4)/ No error (5)
5. Sarita said (1)/that a (2)/stitch in time (3)/ saved nine. (4)/No error (5)
6. He said that (1)/ "Work hard (2)/ if you want to (3)/ secure good marks." (4)/ No error (5)
7. He tells me (1)/ that he would go (2)/ to Mumbai the (3)/ next month. (4)/No error (5)
8. Mohan told me (1)/that I am (2)/doing (3)/ his work. (4)/ No error (3)
9. John asked James (1)/ if he had come there (2)/ just to see him or (3)/ there is some other reason. (4)/ No error (5)
10. He said that he had (1)/decided not to buy (2)/the house as (3)/it was on the main road. (4)/No error (5)
11. Sarla asked the teacher (1)/how many girls (2)/were there (3)/ in class X. (4)/Nc error (5)





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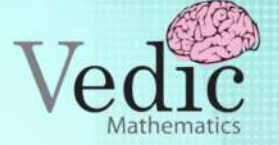
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12. The boy requested (1)/the teacher to (2)/allow him to (3)/ go to his home now. (4)/No error (5)

13. The captain exclaimed with (1)/applause that (2)/the players played (3)/ the match very well. (4)/No error (5)

14. My father asked me (1)/ why you were (2)/taking that (3)/examination. (4)/No error (5)

15. She asked Shyam (1)/ if I could (2)/accompany him (3)/ to the market. (4)/No error (5)

16. Kam told me (1)/ that he got up (2)/ early in the (3)/ morning daily. (4)/No error (5)

17. The teacher told the students (1)/ that (2)/ India had attained freedom (3)/on 15th August 1947 (4)/No error (5)

18. He said that (1)/he was tired and (2)/that he wants (3)/ to go to bed. (4)/ No error (5)

19. The mother asked (1)/her son where (2)/ he was all (3)/ that afternoon. (4)/No error (5)

20. The magistrate asked the accused (1)/ what was he doing (2)/ with his hand (3)/in gentleman's pocket (4)/ No error (5)

21. The old man advised his sons (1)/ not to quarrel amongst themselves (2)/ when he is dead (3)/but to remain united. (4)/No error (5)

22. He asked them (1)/whether he would (2)/ listen to (3)/. such a man. (4)/No error (5)

23. He requested him (1)/ that to wait (2)/ there till he returned (3)/from the office (4)/No error (5)

24. He urged them (1)/ to be quiet (2)/and listen to (3)/ my words (4)/ No error (5)

25. He asked his (1)/ father when the (2)/ next letter (3)/ will come. (4)/ No error to(5)

26. He told that (1)/ his father had gone (2)/ to Mumbai (3)/ the previous week. (4)/No error (5)

27. Sumit told his father that (1)/ he wanted to go abroad(2)/ after he finishes (3)/his studies there. (4)/ No error (6)

28. The station master told me (1)/that I was very late (2)/ and it was an hour (3)/ since the train left. (4)/ No error (5)

29. He respectfully (1)/ wished his (2)/ teacher (3)/good morning str. (4)/No error (5)

30. He asked his son (1)/ if he has seen (2)/the Taj Mahal (3)/ earlier. (4)/No error (5)

