The Practise Ground

Class 8-10 English

Direct & Indirect Speech

Report what someone said

1 said that

Statements

Direct: “I am tired.” Indirect: She said that she was tired.

2 asked if / whether

Yes/no questions

Direct: “Are you ready?” Indirect: He asked if I was ready.

3 told / ordered … to

Commands and requests

Direct: “Close the door.” Indirect: She told me to close the door.

4 Back-shift

Tenses move one step back

am/is: was | will: would | can: could | has: had

Also change

Pronouns change: I becomes he or she.

Time words change: today becomes that day, tomorrow becomes the next day.

Try it

Direct: He said, “I will call you tomorrow.”

Indirect: He said that he would call me the next day.

Think you've got it? Test yourself.

Scan for a free English quiz.

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