Indirect Speech

Mit der indirekten Rede (indirect / reported speech) gibt man wieder, was jemand gesagt hat. 

Peter: „Ich mag das Eis!“
Klaus zu Bob: „Peter hat gesagt, dass er das Eis mag.“

1. Einleitung mit einem reporting verb

Die indirekte Rede wird von einem Verb des Sagens (reporting verb) eingeleitet, z.B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I said that …</th>
<th>Ich sagte, dass …</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>She told me that …</td>
<td>Sie erzählte mir, dass …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They explained that …</td>
<td>Sie erklärten, dass …</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Danach folgt bei einem Aussagesatz ein that („dass“). Das that kann auch wegfallen:

Susan says that she likes cats. = Susan says she likes cats.

2. Pronomen verändern sich:

Wie man oben sieht, verändern sich in der indirekten Rede manchmal die Pronomen – je nach dem, mit wem man spricht. So wird oben aus „ich“ in der indirekten Rede „er“, weil der Sprecher Peter ein Mann ist. Im Englischen genauso:

Susan to Klaus: „I like you!“
Klaus to Bob: „Susan said that she liked me!“

3. Orts- und Zeitangaben ändern sich:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>this town</th>
<th>that town</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>these houses</td>
<td>those houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>today</td>
<td>that day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>now</td>
<td>then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a week ago</td>
<td>a week before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>last weekend</td>
<td>the weekend before / the previous weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tomorrow</td>
<td>the next day / the following day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>here</td>
<td>there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>next month</td>
<td>the month after that</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Bei einem *reporting verb* in der Vergangenheit (hier: *said*) ändern sich die Zeiten.

**will-future -> would + Infinitiv:**

Bob *will help* Ken.

**going-to-future -> was/were going to + Infinitiv:**

Bob is *going to help* Ken.

**would + Infinitiv:**

He said that Bob *would help* Ken.

**was / were going to + Infinitiv:**

He said that Bob *was going to help* Ken.

**simple present -> simple past:**

Bob *helps* Ken.

**present progressive -> past progressive:**

Bob is *helping* Ken.

**simple past -> past perfect:**

He said that Bob *helped* Ken.

**past progressive -> past perf. prog.:**

... Bob *was helping* Ken.

**past perfect:**

... Bob *had helped* Ken.

**past perfect progressive:**

... Bob *had been helping* Ken.

**present perfect -> past perfect:**

Bob *has helped* Ken.

**present perfect progressive -> past perf. progr.:**

Bob *has been helping* Ken.

**past perfect**

... Bob *had helped* Ken.

**past perfect progressive**

... Bob *had been helping* Ken.

4. Fragen in der indirekten Rede

Fragen werden in der indirekten Rede genauso wiedergegeben wie Aussagesätze – d.h. mit Änderung der Pronomen, Orts- und Zeitangaben und gegebenenfalls *backshift of tenses.* Statt that verwenden wir hier jedoch *if* („ob“) oder ein Fragewort (who, why, what …).

Mary: „Is your sister at home?“

Mary *asked me* if my sister *was at home.

Mum: “Why didn’t you call me?”

Mum *wanted to know* why I *hadn’t called her.*

5. Befehle in der indirekten Rede

Um einen Befehl wiedergeben, verwendet man ein *Verb des Befehls* (meist *ask sb. to do sth.* oder *tell sb. to do sth.*) mit *Objekt* und *(not)-to-infinitive.*

Mum: Tidy up your room!

My mum *asked me* to tidy up my room.

Teacher: „Don’t talk!“

The teacher *told the students* not to talk.
EXERCISE 1 Schreibe in indirekte Rede um. Weil das *reporting verb* in der Gegenwart steht, musst du die Zeit der Verben nicht ändern. Achte nur auf Änderung der Person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ken tells me:</th>
<th>Ken tells me that …</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>„You’re my friend.“</td>
<td>I am his friend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>„I’m in trouble.“</td>
<td>he’s in trouble.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) Joseph: „We always spend the summer holidays in Greece because we have a house there.“
Joseph says that he and his family always spend the summer holidays in Greece because ___________ have a house there.
b) Mara: “Jane told me everything.” – Mara says that Jane told ___________ everything.
c) Steve: “You are an idiot.” – Steve tells me that ___________ am an idiot.
d) Kate: “I’m cold.” – Kate says that ___________ is cold.
e) Moira: “They aren’t listening.” Moira complains that ____________________________.
f) Ken: “I came home late.” Ken says that ________________________________.

EXERCISE 2 Schreibe in indirekte Rede um. Hier ist das *reporting verb* in der Vergangenheit – das heißt, die Zeiten müssen verändert werden. Alle Sätze sind im simple past oder present perfect – das heißt, die Verben müssen ins past perfect (I had played) gesetzt werden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I play</th>
<th>I had played</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have played</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t play</td>
<td>I hadn’t played</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I haven’t played</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>was / were</td>
<td>had been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have been</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) Biff: „I saw him.”
Biff claimed that he ________________________ him.
b) The twins: “We have finished our homework.”
The twins told their mum that they ________________________ their homework.
c) Jacob: “I have read your book.”
Jacob told me that he ________________________ my book.
d) Moira: “My son never answered my letters.”
Moira complained that her son ________________________ her letters.
e) Lucy: “They repaired the bikes.”
Lucy informed us that they ________________________ the bikes.
f) Walter: “I have prepared everything.”
Walter announced that he ________________________ everything.
g) Robin: “I didn’t open your present.”
Robin said to Elena that he ______________________________ her present.

h) Sven: “I had no idea.”
Sven claimed that he ______________________________ no idea.

i) Saki: “I haven’t seen your friend.”
Saki said to Benjamin and Tom that she ______________________________ their friend.

EXERCISE 3 Present progressive, past progressive, present perfect progressive oder going-to-future – hier musst du nur die Form von to be ändern. Setze in die indirekte Rede.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>am, is, are</th>
<th>was / were</th>
<th>was / were</th>
<th>had been</th>
<th>has been / have been</th>
<th>had been</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

a) Rob: “He is working in the garden!”
Rob announced that he ______________ working in the garden.

b) Jack: “They were waiting for the bus.”
Jack explained that they ______________ for the bus.

c) Grandma: “I was making a cake.”
Grandma told me that she ______________ making a cake.

d) Kim: “I’m going to find him!”
Kim shouted that she ______________ going to find him.

e) My brothers: “We aren’t coming to the party.”
My brothers said that they ______________ coming to the party.

f) Nick: “You are going to be disappointed.”
Nick promised that I ______________ going to be disappointed.

g) Ruth: “She is sleeping.”
Ruth said that she ______________ sleeping.

h) You: “I was reading.”
You said that you ______________ reading.

EXERCISE 4 Will-future. Setze in die indirekte Rede!

I will go I would go

a) Professor Smith: „I will help them.“
Professor Smith promised that ______________________________

b) Lady McQueen: “They’ll be on time.”
Lady McQueen predicted that ______________________________

c) Doctor Rider: “The time machine will work.”
Doctor Rider convinced us that ______________________________________________________
d) Martin: “You’ll find the answer.”
Martin said that ______________________________________________________

EXERCISE 5 Alle Zeiten gemischt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jenny:</th>
<th>Jenny told me that …</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) I’m going to fly to London.</td>
<td>she was going to fly to London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Peter was in Chicago.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) I’ll finish the task later.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) She is crying.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) They have arrived.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) You’re right.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) He called me.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Ken had written to my parents.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) I wouldn’t do that.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j) Lisa didn’t leave.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k) Lisa and Ken aren’t studying.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l) I like cats.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m) They must be quiet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n) You were crying.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o) They’ve been mowing the lawn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXERCISE 6 Fragen. Schreibe die Fragen in indirekte Rede um.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jenny:</th>
<th>Jenny wanted to know …</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) “Will they come?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) “Why did she leave?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) “Who bought that chair?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) “What have you done?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) “Are you listening?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) “What has he been writing?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) “When did they arrive?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) “Is he going to help?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) “Why was he late?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j) “How can I help?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k) “What did they eat?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l) “When will they deliver the pizza?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m) “Did you see that man?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXERCISE 7 Commands. Übersetze die Befehle in indirekte Rede.

Jenny:

a) “Come back right now!”
b) “Leave the door open!”
c) “Don’t pet the dog!”
d) “Don’t read my diary!”
e) “Talk to somebody else!”
f) “Don’t sit on the armrest of the sofa!”
g) “Don’t forget your umbrella!”
h) “Put on a warm jacket!”
i) “Please be quiet!”
j) “Do the dishes!”
k) “Stop taking my stuff!”
l) “Don’t use my phone!”
m) “Turn down the music!”

Jenny told me …

EXERCISE 8 Zeit- und Ortsangaben. Wie heißt es in der indirekten Rede?

1. this evening
   a) the next evening
   b) this evening
   c) that evening
2. today
   a) that day
   b) today
   c) the day before
3. these cats
   a) that cats
   b) those cats
   c) these cats
4. now
   a) at this time
   b) then
   c) before
5. a year ago
   a) last year
   b) that year
   c) a year before
6. here
   a) there
   b) at this place
   c) back then
7. tomorrow
   a) the next day
   b) the following day
   c) the previous day
EXERCISE 9 Hier sind nun alle Zeiten und Satzformen (Frage, Aussage, Befehl) gemischt. Schreibe in indirekte Rede um.

Example: Peter: I’d like to see the new movie.
Peter said he would like to …

a) Lisa: Do you know why Jenny stopped meeting your brother?
Lisa asked me ____________________________________________

b) Toby: I’ve been working really hard on this presentation and I hope I’ll get a good mark.
Toby said that __________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

c) Laura: My PE lesson yesterday was horrible because I wasn’t feeling well.
Laura told Jeff that __________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

d) Christine: I must thank Nick for lending me his book.
Christine told her friends that __________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

e) Kathrin: My parents visited my aunt yesterday.
Kathrin mentioned that ______________________________________

f) Martin: I’m going to fly to Spain. What are you going to do during the holidays?
Martin told the twins that ___________________________________
and asked them __________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

g) Sarah: Don’t open this door!
Sarah advised us __________________________________________

h) Philipp: Enjoy yourself!
Philipp told her __________________________________________

i) Steve: I didn’t go to school yesterday.
Steve explained that _________________________________________

j) Mrs Miller: It’s not that difficult.Try again!
Mrs Miller said that _________________________________________
and encouraged her students __________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

k) Debbie: Don’t enter my room when I’ve left!
Debbie forbade me _________________________________________

l) Jimmy: Have you finished your essay on German literature?
Jimmy wanted to know ______________________________________

m) Carl: You’re so annoying, Nick! Stop throwing paper balls at me!
Carl complained that Nick __________________________________
and told him ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

o) Peter: When did you arrive?
Peter asked Sam __________________________________________

p) Jenny: Please do not disturb me now!
Jenny asked us __________________________________________
q) Mira: Did Tony really invite these girls to his party?
Mira wanted to know ____________________________________________________________

r) Michael: I’m going to go to college next year.
Michael said that ________________________________________________________________

s) Danny: Can you help me with this homework?
Danny asked Linda ______________________________________________________________

EXERCISE 10. Schreibe in direkte Rede um.
a) Nick told me that he had been too late the week before.
Nick: “________________________________________________________________________”

b) Samuel asked me if I knew when the train was going to leave.
Samuel: _________________________________________________________________________

c) Damian said he wouldn’t go to school the next day.
Damian: _________________________________________________________________________

d) Sarah complained that those tasks were too difficult.
Sarah: _________________________________________________________________________

e) James told me not to touch anything in the museum.
James: _________________________________________________________________________

f) Sally asked her friend if she could clean the kitchen for her.
Sally: _________________________________________________________________________

g) Carl explained that he hadn’t had the time to prepare his presentation the day before.
Carl: _________________________________________________________________________

h) Carol said she didn’t know what to do about the test.
Carol: _________________________________________________________________________

i) The teacher told the students to be quiet.
Teacher: _________________________________________________________________________

j) My friend said it was going to be difficult to get a book from the library during the holidays.
My friend: _________________________________________________________________________

k) Kelly’s brother shouted that he would never work for that man.
Kelly’s brother: _________________________________________________________________________

l) The children were asking if their teacher would return before the holidays.
The children: _________________________________________________________________________
Lösungen

EXERCISE 1  
a) Joseph: „We always spend the summer holidays in Greece because we have a house there.” Joseph says that he and his family always spend the summer holidays in Greece because they have a house there.
b) Mara: “Jane told me everything.” – Mara says that Jane told her everything.
c) Steve: “You are an idiot.” – Steve tells me that I am an idiot.
d) Kate: “I’m cold.” – Kate says that she is cold.
e) Moira: “They aren’t listening.” Moira complains that they aren’t listening.
f) Ken: “I came home late.” Ken says that he came home late.

EXERCISE 2  
a) Biff claimed that he had seen him.
b) The twins told their mum that they had finished their homework.
c) Jacob told me that he had read my book.
d) Moira complained that her son had never answered her letters.
e) Lucy informed us that they had repaired the bikes.
f) Walter announced that he had prepared everything.
g) Robin said to Elena that he hadn’t opened her present.
h) Saki said to Benjamin and Tom that she hadn’t seen their friend.

EXERCISE 3  
a) Rob: “He is working in the garden!” Rob announced that he was working in the garden.
b) Jack: “They were waiting for the bus.” Jack explained that they had been waiting for the bus.
c) Grandma: “I was making a cake.” Grandma told me that she had been making a cake.
d) Kim: “I’m going to find him!” Kim shouted that she was going to find him.
e) My brothers: “We aren’t coming to the party.” My brothers said that they weren’t coming to the party.
f) Nick: “You are going to be disappointed.” Nick promised that I was going to be disappointed.
g) Ruth: “She is sleeping.” Ruth said that she was sleeping.
h) You: “I was reading.” You said that you had been reading.

EXERCISE 4  
a) Professor Smith promised that he would help them.
b) Lady McQueen predicted that they would be on time.
c) Doctor Rider convinced us that the time machine would work.
d) Martin said that you would find the answer.

EXERCISE 5  Alle Zeiten gemischt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jenny:</th>
<th>Jenny told me that …</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) I’m going to fly to London.</td>
<td>she was going to fly to London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Peter was in Chicago.</td>
<td>Peter had been in Chicago.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grammatik [INDIRECT SPEECH]

c) I’ll finish the task later.  
   she would finish the task later.

d) She is crying.  
   she was crying.

e) They have arrived.  
   they had arrived.

f) You’re right.  
   I was right.

g) He called me.  
   he had called her.

h) Ken had written to my parents.  
   Ken had written to her parents.

i) I wouldn’t do that.  
   she wouldn’t do that.

j) Lisa didn’t leave.  
   Lisa hadn’t left.

k) Lisa and Ken aren’t studying.  
   Lisa and Ken weren’t studying.

l) I like cats.  
   she liked cats.

m) They must be quiet.  
   they had to be quiet.

n) You were crying.  
   you had been crying.

EXERCISE 6 Fragen. Schreibe die Fragen in indirekte Rede um.

Jenny:  

a) “Will they come?”  
   Jenny wanted to know … if they would come.

b) “Why did she leave?”  
   why she had left.

c) “Who bought that chair?”  
   who had bought that chair.

d) “What have you done?”  
   what I had done.

e) “Are you listening?”  
   if I was listening.

f) “What has he been writing?”  
   what he had been writing.

g) “When did they arrive?”  
   when they had arrived.

h) “Is he going to help?”  
   if he was going to help.

i) “Why was he late?”  
   why he had been late.

j) “How can I help?”  
   how she could help.

k) “What did they eat?”  
   what they had eaten.

l) “When will they deliver the pizza?”  
   when they would deliver the pizza.

m) “Did you see that man?”  
   if I had seen that man.

EXERCISE 7 Commands. Übersetze die Befehle in indirekte Rede.

Jenny:  

a) “Come back right now!”  
   Jenny told me … to come back right now (then).

b) “Leave the door open!”  
   to leave the door open.

c) “Don’t pet the dog!”  
   not to pet the dog.

d) “Don’t read my diary!”  
   not to read her diary.

e) “Talk to somebody else!”  
   to talk to somebody else.

f) “Don’t sit on the armrest of the sofa!”  
   not to sit on the armrest of the sofa.

g) “Don’t forget your umbrella!”  
   not to forget my umbrella.

h) “Put on a warm jacket!”  
   to put on a warm jacket.

i) “Please be quiet!”  
   to be quiet.

j) “Do the dishes!”  
   to do the dishes.

k) “Stop taking my stuff!”  
   to stop taking her stuff.

l) “Don’t use my phone!”  
   not to use her phone.

m) “Turn down the music!”  
   to turn down the music.
**EXERCISE 8** Zeit- und Ortsangaben. Wie heißt es in der indirekten Rede?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. this evening</th>
<th>5. a year ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d) the next evening</td>
<td>d) last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) this evening</td>
<td>e) that year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) that evening</td>
<td>f) a year before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. today</td>
<td>6. here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) that day</td>
<td>d) there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) today</td>
<td>e) at this place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) the day before</td>
<td>f) back then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. these cats</td>
<td>7. tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) that cats</td>
<td>d) the next day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) those cats</td>
<td>e) the following day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) these cats</td>
<td>f) the previous day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. now</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) at this time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) then</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) before</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXERCISE 9**

a) Lisa: Do you know why Jenny stopped meeting your brother?
Lisa asked me **why Jenny had stopped meeting my brothers**.

b) Toby: I’ve been working really hard on this presentation and I hope I’ll get a good mark.
Toby said that **he had been working really hard on this presentation and he hoped he would get a good mark**.

c) Laura: My PE lesson yesterday was horrible because I wasn’t feeling well.
Laura told Jeff that **her PE lesson the day before had been horrible because she hadn’t been feeling well**.

d) Christine: I must thank Nick for lending me his book.
Christine told her friends that **she had to thank Nick for lending her his book**.

e) Kathrin: My parents visited my aunt yesterday.
Kathrin mentioned that **her parents had visited her aunt the day before**.

f) Martin: I’m going to fly to Spain. What are you going to do during the holidays?
Martin told the twins that **he was going to fly to Spain and asked them what they were going to do during the holidays**.

g) Sarah: Don’t open this door!
Sarah advised us **not to open this door**.

h) Philipp: Enjoy yourself!
Philipp told her **to enjoy herself**.

i) Steve: I didn’t go to school yesterday.
Steve explained that **he hadn’t gone to school the day before**.

j) Mrs Miller: It’s not that difficult.
Mrs Miller said that **it wasn’t that difficult** and encouraged her students **to try again**.

k) Debbie: Don’t enter my room when I’ve left!
Debbie forbade me **to enter her room when she had left**.

l) Jimmy: Have you finished your essay on German literature?
Jimmy wanted to know **if I / you ... had finished my / your ... essay on German literature**.

m) Carl: You’re so annoying, Nick! Stop throwing paper balls at me!
Carl complained that Nick was so annoying and told him to stop throwing paper balls at him.
o) Peter: When did you arrive?
Peter asked Sam when he had arrived.
p) Jenny: Please do not disturb me now!
Jenny asked us not to disturb him then.
q) Mira: Did Tony really invite these girls to his party?
Mira wanted to know if Tom had really invited those girls to his party.
r) Michael: I’m going to go to uni next year.
Michael said that he was going to go to college the following year.
s) Danny: Can you help me with this homework?
Danny asked Linda to help him with that homework.

EXERCISE 10 Schreibe in direkte Rede um.
a) Nick told me that he had been too late the week before.
Nick: I was late last week.
b) Samuel asked me if I knew when the train was going to leave.
Samuel: Do you know when the train is going to leave?
c) Damian said he wouldn’t go to school the next day.
Damian: I won’t go to school tomorrow.
d) Sarah complained that those tasks were too difficult.
Sarah: These tasks are too difficult.
e) James told me not to touch anything in the museum.
James: Don’t touch anything in the museum.
f) Sally asked her friend if she could clean the kitchen for her.
Sally: Can you clean the kitchen for me?
g) Carl explained that he hadn’t had the time to prepare his presentation the day before.
Carl: I didn’t have the time to prepare my presentation yesterday.
h) Carol said she didn’t know what to do about the test.
Carol: I don’t know what to do about the test.
i) The teacher told the students to be quiet.
Teacher: Be quiet!
j) My friend said it was going to be difficult to get a book from the library during the holidays.
My friend: It’s going to be difficult to get a book from the library during the holidays.
k) Kelly’s brother shouted that he would never work for that man.
Kelly’s brother: I will never work for that man! / I would never work for that man!
l) The children were asking if their teacher would return before the holidays.
The children: Will our teacher return before the holidays?