

The background features a perspective view of a library with tall bookshelves filled with books. Overlaid on this is a word cloud with various terms in different sizes and colors, including 'achieve', 'flency', 'learn', 'meaning', 'words', 'technology', 'communication', 'reach', 'ENGLISH', 'never', 'one-third', 'skills', 'opportunities', and 'bridging'.

# **Reported Speech or Indirect Speech**

**Reported Speech** is a  
speech which tells you what  
someone said, but does not  
use the person's actual  
words.

That means there are two ways of reporting the words of a speaker.

One way is quoting **his actual words** called **Direct Speech**.

The other way is reporting what the speaker said **without quoting his actual words**.

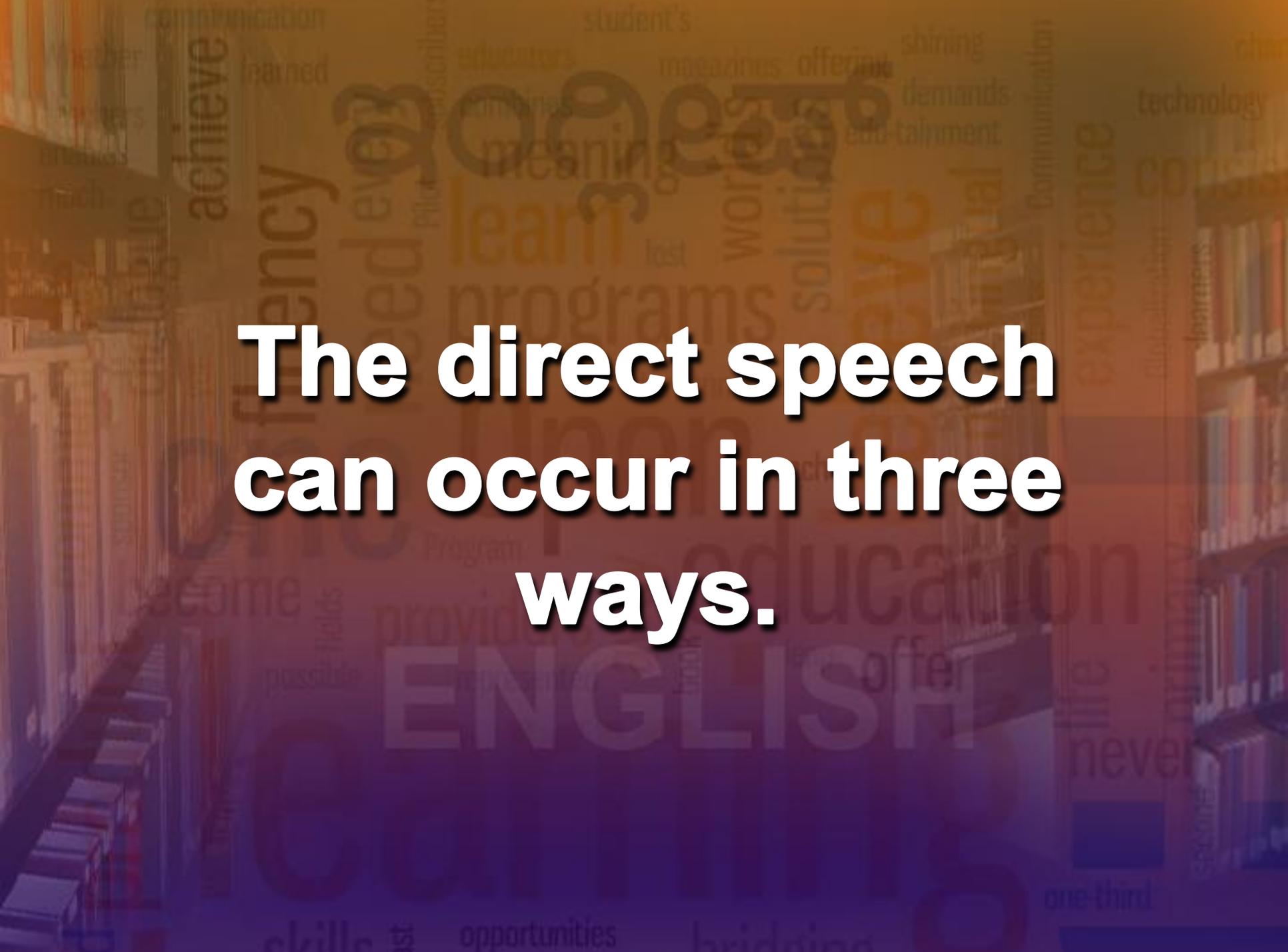
This is **Indirect** or **Reported Speech**.

## **Example for Direct Speech:**

- **“Going my way, soldier?” a young woman, in a pale green suit, murmured.**

## **Reported Speech:**

- **The young woman in a pale green suit murmured if the soldier was going her way.**

The background of the slide features a perspective view of a library with rows of bookshelves filled with books. Overlaid on this is a word cloud with various terms in different colors and sizes, including 'achieve', 'frequency', 'learn', 'programs', 'solutions', 'experience', 'education', 'ENGLISH', 'never', 'opportunities', and 'bridging'.

**The direct speech  
can occur in three  
ways.**

**(i) The actual words in inverted commas**

**Examples:**

**a) They hushed us: “Sleep, my baby son”.**

**b) “With faces washed by many rains  
Dried in the morning wind and sun  
We started out upon our own”,  
said the children.**

## **(ii) Actual words in script form**

### **Example:**

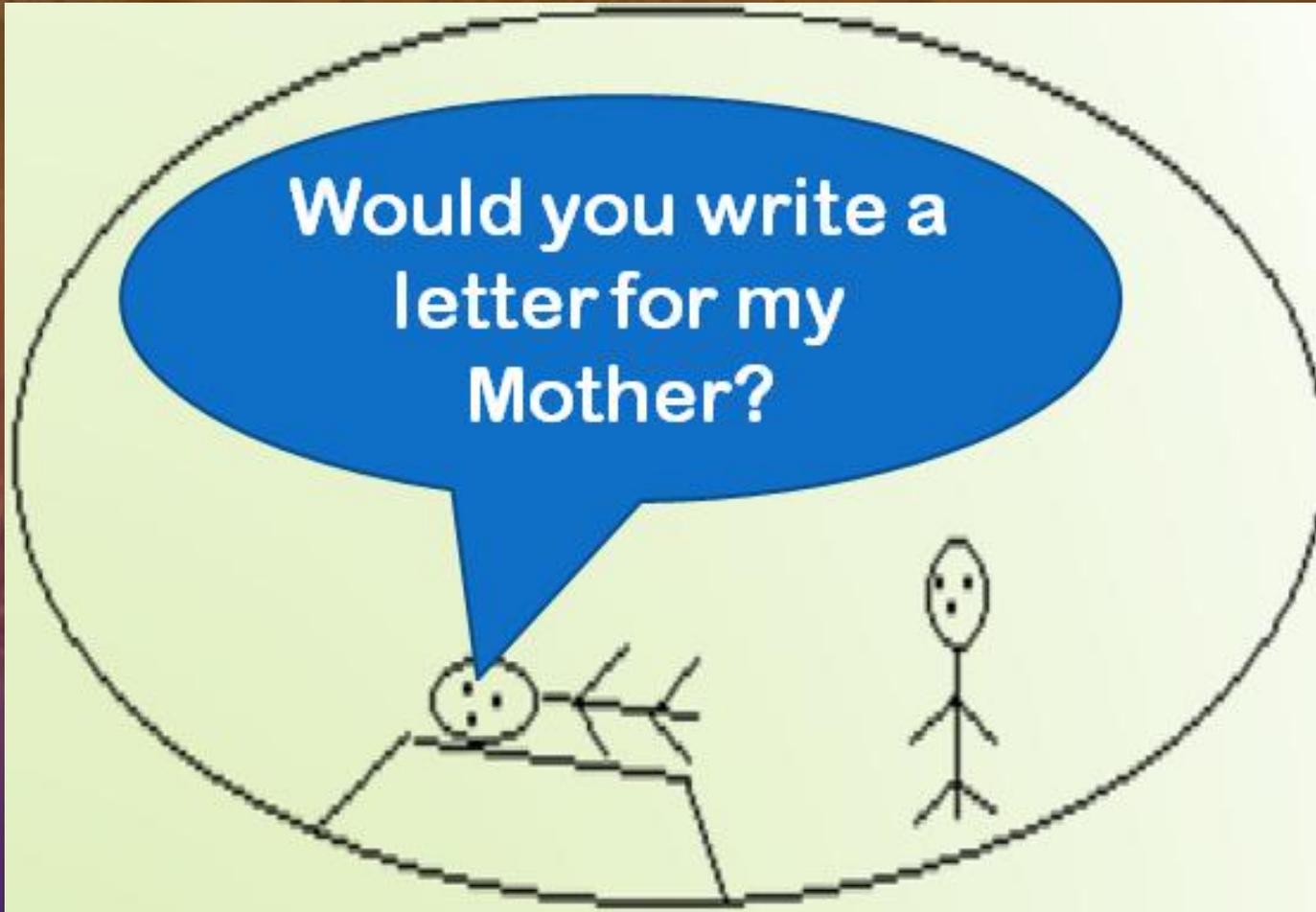
**Mary : You are tired, Joe. Must you work so late?**

**Joe : I must, Mary, as you know well. Time is scarce, and I have so much to do.**

### **(iii) Actual words in Speech Bubbles:**



Would you write a  
letter for my  
Mother?



Let us study some examples to understand the **changes** to be made while changing Direct Speech into Reported Speech and **rules** to be followed while changing Direct speech into Reported speech.

# 1. Statements :

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
<p><b>“I need to buy a buffalo”, the old man said</b></p>	<p><b>The old man said that he needed to buy a buffalo.</b></p>

## 2 Yes / No Questions and 'Wh' Questions:

Mary : **Can I**  
help you?

Mary **asked** Joe  
**if / whether she**  
**could** help him.

Johnny : What  
**shall we** do  
Father?

Johnny asked his  
father Joe what  
**they should** do.

“**Shall I** tell you the story of the glass tree”? Unni said.

What **do you want**? Panikkan asked Melkkoran.

Unni asked Mutthashi **whether he should** tell her the story of the glass tree.

Panikkan asked Melkkoran what **he wanted**.

## **Instructions / Commands / Requests:**

***“Unni”, said Mutthashi, “Tell me a story”,***

**Ans:**

**Mutthashi asked / instructed Unni to tell her a story.**

***Joe : Give me a thread from  
your wheel Mary.***

**Ans:**

**Joe asked Mary to give him  
a thread from her wheel.**

## **Exclamations and Wishes:**

*Ram - ram, saa ! the old man said*

*Ram – ram, bhai ! Tansukh said.*

**Ans:** The old man and Tansukh wished each other.

*Joe : No one shall touch my machine!*

**Ans:** Joe exclaimed that no one should touch his machine.

# **Remember the following points while changing a direct speech into Reported Speech:**

- ✓ **Speaker to come first.**
- ✓ **Reporting verb to be changed depending on the tone of the speaker.**

✓ Tense of the verb in the sentence to be reported has to follow the tense of the reporting verb, **say**, past tense to become past perfect tense.

- ✓ **A simple present has to become a simple past.  
A present progressive has to become a past progressive.**
- ✓ **A present perfect has to become a past perfect**

✓ **Pronouns ( 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person) in the direct speech have to be changed to corresponding 3<sup>rd</sup> person forms.**

✓ **When the statement refers to a universal truth, the tense in the direct speech does not change while it is reported.**



## **Verbs:**

- i. Some of the verbs used to report statements:** tell, say, add, advise, answer, argue, reply, confers, complain, please, permit, suggest.
  
- ii. Some of the verbs used to report questions:** ask , enquire, question, wanted to know.

**iii. Verbs used in reporting orders / requests / commands/ instructions : ask, tell, order, urge, beg, request, invite, persuade.**

**iv. Verbs used in reporting exclamatory sentences are exclaim, surprise, wish.**

## **Connectives:**

**That** is the connective used to report the statement / exclamations / wishes.

**'Wh' word** is the connective used to report 'wh' – questions.

**If / whether** is the connective used to report 'yes / no' questions

**To** is the connective used to report instructions / commands / requests. (imperatives).

# Words expressing nearness in the direct speech are changed to words expressing distance.

Direct	Reported	Direct	Reported
<b>This</b>	<b>That</b>	<b>Now</b>	<b>Then</b>
<b>Thus</b>	<b>So, thus</b>	<b>These</b>	<b>Those</b>
<b>Here</b>	<b>There</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>That day</b>
<b>Ago</b>	<b>Before/Earlier</b>	<b>Tomorrow</b>	<b>The next day, The following day</b>
<b>Yesterday</b>	<b>The day before/The previous day</b>	<b>Last week/Last night</b>	<b>The week before/The previous Night</b>

## **EXAMPLE 1:**

**Report the following conversation between Kuruman Panikkan and Melkkoran to your classmates.**

**Melkkoran said, “I can build a tree that never grows old and that never sheds its leaves”**

**Panikkan said, “Is there such a thing, Melkkoran?”**

**Melkkoran said, “Yes, in the west.”**

**Panikkan said again, “We should have such a tree here too”.**

## **KEY ANS. 1:**

**Melkkoran told that he could build a tree that never grows old and that never sheds its leaves. Panikkan asked Melkkoran if there was such a thing anywhere.**

**Melkkoran answered in the affirmative and told that there was such a thing in the west. Panikkan said that they / he should have such a tree there also.**

## EXAMPLE 2:

Report the following conversation between Unni, Amma (his mother) and **finally** Muttahashi to your friend

“Unni, shouldn’t you be finishing your home work?” Amma called out.

**“It’s past ten O’clock.”**

**Unni said “I’ve almost reached the end, Amma.”**

**“Hurry up, son.”**

**“Unni”, Mutthashi whispered in Unni’s ears, “don’t rush.”**

## **KEY ANS. 2:**

**Amma called out to Unni and asked him whether he shouldn't be finishing his homework.**

**She told / reminded him that it was past ten O'clock.**

**Unni told / replied / answered Amma that he had almost reached the end. Amma asked / told Unni to hurry up. Mutthashi whispered in Unni's ears and pleaded with him not to rush.**

## **Some useful points to consider:**

- 1.** Reported speech is not always mechanically derived from direct speech.
- 2.** There are certain contents of language where the use of Reported Speech is natural and appropriate.

**Eg:** *Journalistic reports / stories.*

**3. Usually,** factual pieces of information or description of events are expressed in **Reported speech.**

**4. Emotive lines / expressions ; short exchanges between speakers, incomplete lines indicating confusion, fear, anger, etc. and repetition of words / sentences indicating strong feeling cannot be reported effectively in the indirect speech. They are best expressed in the direct speech.**

### **EXAMPLE 3:**

**Report the following conversation:**

**Old man:** What are you thinking?  
Have you decided to over look my  
request of buying a buffalo?

**Tansukh:** I haven't, I was thinking  
about Kashi's buffalo.

**Old man:** Please help me to buy  
the buffalo.

## **KEY ANS. 3:**

**The old man enquired what he was thinking and whether he had decided to overlook his request of buying a buffalo. Tansukh told that he had not overlooked his request. He had been thinking about Kashi's buffalo. The old man requested Tansukh to help him to buy the buffalo.**

## **EXAMPLE 4:**

**Report the following conversation:**

**Joe : Come here, Mary,**

**Mary: What is it, Joe?**

**Joe : Do you see this tiny pointed piece?**

**It is the most important part of my machine.**

## **KEY ANS. 4:**

**Drawing Mary's attention to the tiny pointed piece, Joe asked her to listen to him. Mary asked him what it was. Joe asked if she saw that tiny pointed piece. He said that it was the most important part of his machine.**

## **EXAMPLE 5:**

**Report the following conversation to your teacher in the class.**

**Mary : Johnny, Are you sure?**

**Johnny : Yes, what do they want father? What do they mean by it?**

**Joe : They want to smash me and my machine.**

**Mary : Johnny, run and fetch the watch.**

## **KEY ANS. 5:**

**Mary asked Johnny whether he was sure. Johnny answered in the affirmative. He asked his father what they / the villagers wanted and what they meant by it. Joe told Johnny that they wanted to smash him and his machine. Mary asked Johnny to run and fetch the watch.**

## **EXAMPLE 6:**

**Report the following conversation to your friend:**

**“Unni”, said Mutthashi, “Tell me a story”.**

**“What story would you like, Mutthashi”?**

**“A nice one”, Mutthashi said,**

**“One that will send me to sleep”.**

**“Shall I tell you the story of the glass tree?”**

## **KEY ANS. 6:**

**Mutthashi asked Unni to tell her a story. Unni asked Mutthashi what story she would like. Mutthashi said that she would like to listen to a nice story that would send her to sleep. Unni asked her whether he could tell her the story of the glass tree.**

## **EXAMPLE 7:**

**Report the following conversation.**

**Old man: Did you hear what I said?**

**Tansukh: Yes, I did. Have you seen  
one that you want?**

**Old man: Yes, if only you could get  
it settled.....**

**Tansukh : Where is it?**

**Old man: It is just here. There is  
Kashi Regar who lives in  
your neighbourhood.**

## **KEY ANS. 7:**

**The old man asked Tansukh whether he had heard what he told.**

**Tansukh affirmed he did and asked whether he had seen the buffalo that he wanted.**

**The old man replied in the affirmative and told that he had seen one and requested him to get it settled. Tansukh asked where it was. The old man said it was just there in Kashi Regar's house who lived in his neighborhood.**

## **EXAMPLE 8:**

**Report the following conversation:**

**Hob : Where is your husband, mistress ?**

**Mary : In his bed. He is sick and weary. You would not harm him.**

**Hob : We are going to smash his evil work.**

## **KEY ANS. 8:**

**Hob asked Mary where her husband was. Mary replied that he was in his bed and he was sick weary and she requested that they would not harm him. Hob said that they were going to smash his evil work (machine).**

## **EXAMPLE 9**

**Report the following conversation:**

**“Who are you?” said Panikkan.**

**“A mason. Melkkoran is my name.”**

**“What do you want?”**

**“Work”**

## **KEY ANS. 9:**

**Panikkan asked/ questioned who he was. Melkkoran replied that he was a mason and that Melkkoran was his name. Panikkan questioned him further what he wanted. Melkkoran replied that he wanted work.**