Grammar Self-Checks
(Unit 8, pages 88-89)

Indirect speech: changes to preserve meaning

Look at the examples of verbs changing from direct to indirect speech.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>direct speech</th>
<th>indirect speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selye wrote, “Negative emotions are dangerous and they cause illness.”</td>
<td>Selye wrote (that) negative emotions were dangerous and (that) they caused illness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors said, “The studies didn’t prove anything.”</td>
<td>Doctors said (that) the studies hadn’t proved anything.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They claimed, “We were telling the truth.”</td>
<td>They claimed (that) they had been telling the truth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She told him, “I’ll check to see how you’re feeling later.”</td>
<td>She told him (that) she would check to see how he was feeling later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selye said, “Never tell patients about that.”</td>
<td>Selye said never to tell patients about that.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE IT OUT…

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. How does a simple present tense verb change from direct to indirect speech?
   a. It changes to the simple past tense.  
   b. It doesn’t change.

2. How does a simple past tense verb change from direct to indirect speech?
   a. It changes to the present perfect.  
   b. It changes to the past perfect.

3. How does a past continuous verb change from direct to indirect speech?
   a. It changes to the present perfect continuous.  
   b. It changes to the past perfect continuous.

4. How does the verb will change in indirect speech?
   a. It changes to would.  
   b. It doesn’t change.

5. How does a verb change in an imperative sentence such as Never tell patients about that?
   a. It changes to the past tense.  
   b. It changes to the infinitive.

BE CAREFUL! Do not make changes to present and past unreal conditional sentences or to the modals should, could, might, and ought to when converting direct to indirect speech.

FIGURE IT OUT…

Change the sentence below from direct to indirect speech. Check the correct answer.

He said, “I might not need a doctor, but I may need a movie.”

☐ a. He said (that) he might not need a doctor but he might need a movie.

☐ b. He said (that) he might not have needed a doctor but he might have needed a movie.

(continued on next page)
Look at the examples of reporting verbs used with indirect speech.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>admitted</th>
<th>claimed</th>
<th>insisted</th>
<th>thought</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>advised</td>
<td>continued</td>
<td>reported</td>
<td>told</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>believed</td>
<td>found</td>
<td>said</td>
<td>wrote</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE IT OUT…

Fill in the blanks.

1. What reporting verb would you use to report a claim someone made? ________________________
2. What reporting verb would you use to report advice someone gave? ________________________

Look at the examples. Time and place expressions also change from direct to indirect speech.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>now</th>
<th>then</th>
<th>this year</th>
<th>that year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>today</td>
<td>that day</td>
<td>last week</td>
<td>the week before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tomorrow</td>
<td>the next day</td>
<td>next month</td>
<td>the following month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td>the day before</td>
<td>here</td>
<td>there</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE IT OUT…

Fill in the blanks to complete the indirect speech statements.

1. Mark told me, “I was here yesterday.” → Mark told me (that) he had been there ________________________.
2. Claire told us, “Don’t be late tomorrow.” → Claire told us not to be late ________________________.