

মুগ্ধ একাডেমী

Mugdho Academy

Prepared by: Mehedi Hasan Mugdho

Class 8 — English Grammar

Narration (Direct to Indirect Speech)

30 Exercises with Answers

1. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

The patient said to the doctor, "Last month my blood pressure was too high. Since then I have changed my food habits." The doctor asked "How?" "I'm taking more fruits and vegetables, and very little fat in my diet. I'm having less sugar and salt now."

✓ **Answer:**

The patient told the doctor that the previous month his blood pressure had been too high and added that since then he had changed his food habits. The doctor asked how he had done so. He replied that he was taking more fruits and vegetables, and very little fat in his diet and that he was having less sugar and salt then.

2. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

"My sons, a great treasure lies hidden in the land there. I am going to leave it as I shall die soon," said the old father. Being curious, the sons said, "How shall we find it?" "You must dig the land for it," said the old man.

✓ **Answer:**

Addressing as his sons the old man told them that a great treasure lay hidden in the land there and that he was going to leave it as he would die soon. Being curious, the sons asked how they would find it. The old man replied that they must dig the land for it.

3. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

"Why don't you attend the classes?" the teacher said to the boy. "You cannot expect good results unless you attend classes as I tell you." "I am sorry sir, I have offended you," said the boy. "Thank you," said the teacher.

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked the boy why he did not attend the classes. He also added that he could not expect good results unless he attended classes as he told him. The boy said respectfully that he was sorry and added that he had offended him. The teacher thanked him.

4. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

The teacher said to the boy, "Do you think that honesty is the best policy?" The boy said, "Yes, sir, I think so." "Then learn to be honest from your boyhood," said the teacher. "Thank you, sir," said the boy.

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked the boy if he thought that honesty was the best policy. The boy replied respectfully in the affirmative saying that he thought so. The teacher then advised him to learn to be honest from his boyhood. The boy thanked him respectfully.

5. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

"I came here yesterday from my town," Fatema said. "Why did you come here?" I asked. "My mother sent me to you with this letter." "How is your mother?"

✓ **Answer:**

Fatema told me that she had come there the previous day from her town. I asked her why she had come there. She replied that her mother had sent her to me with that letter. I inquired how her mother was.

6. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

"Why were you absent?" said the teacher. "The Headteacher is very angry with you. Go to him at once." "I was seriously ill," said Papia.

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked why she had been absent. He told her that the Headteacher was very angry with her and ordered her to go to him at once. Papia replied that she had been seriously ill.

7. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

The old man said, "Can you give me some food? I have been starving for two days." The maid said, "Why do you beg? Can't you work?"

✓ **Answer:**

The old man asked if she could give him some food. He added that he had been starving for two days. The maid asked him why he begged and whether he could not work.

8. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

The teacher said to Kamal, "Why are you talking in the class? You should behave yourself." Kamal replied, "Sir, I am sorry. I am asking Jamal to lend me his pen. My pen has run out." The teacher said, "Be attentive and listen to my lecture."

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked Kamal why he was talking in the class and told him that he should behave himself. Kamal respectfully replied that he was sorry and that he was asking Jamal to lend him his pen as his pen had run out. The teacher then ordered him to be attentive and listen to his lecture.

9. Change the following passage into indirect speech.

My friend said to me, "Why are you reading at this hour? It is time for prayer. Let us go out for a walk after saying prayer." "Yes, I agree with you," said I. "I have been suffering from fever for a long time," said the student.

✓ **Answer:**

My friend asked me why I was reading at that hour and said that it was time for prayer. He proposed that we should go out for a walk after saying prayer. I agreed with him. The student said that he had been suffering from fever for a long time.

10. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (P. N. Govt. Girls' High School, Rajshahi)

The teacher said to the student, "Have you prepared your lesson today?" "No sir," replied the student. "I was suffering from headache yesterday. I shall do my work tomorrow."

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked the student if he had prepared his lesson that day. The student replied respectfully in the negative saying that he had been suffering from headache the previous day and added that he would do his work the next day.

11. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Dinajpur Zilla School, Dinajpur)

Father said to me, "How is your progress for the coming examination?" I said, "Not so bad." "Maintain regularity to achieve your goal," said he. "May Allah help you."

✓ **Answer:**

Father asked me how my progress was for the coming examination. I replied that it was not so bad. He advised me to maintain regularity to achieve my goal. He also prayed that Allah might help me.

12. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Jessore Zilla School, Jessore)

The traveller said to the peasant, "Can you tell me the way to the nearest inn?" The peasant said, "Yes, I can. Do you want one in which you can spend the night?" The traveller said, "I don't wish to stay there, but I only want a meal."

✓ **Answer:**

The traveller asked the peasant if he could tell him the way to the nearest inn. The peasant replied in the affirmative and asked if he wanted one in which he could spend the night. The traveller said that he did not wish to stay there but he only wanted a meal.

13. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Comilla Zilla School, Comilla)

"Good morning," said the tourist. "Do you have any room vacant?" "Yes sir." "Double or single?" "I want one single," said the tourist. The receptionist said, "We have a single room on the second floor."

✓ **Answer:**

The tourist greeted the receptionist and asked if they had any room vacant. The receptionist replied respectfully in the affirmative. The tourist then asked whether it was double or single. He said that he wanted a single room. The receptionist informed him that they had a single room on the second floor.

14. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Chittagong Collegiate School, Chittagong)

"My sons, listen to me. A great treasure lies hidden in the land there. I am going to leave it as I shall die soon." "How shall we find it?" said the sons. "You must dig the land for it," said the old man.

✓ **Answer:**

The old man asked his sons to listen to him. He told them that a great treasure lay hidden in the land there and added that he was going to leave it as he would die soon. The sons asked how they would find it. The old man replied that they must dig the land for it.

15. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Jalalabad Cantt. Public School & College, Sylhet)

"Have you heard the name of Aesop?" asked the teacher. "No sir, who was he?" "Read the book attentively and you'll be able to know about him. How interesting and instructive his fables are!" said the teacher.

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked if they had heard the name of Aesop. The students replied respectfully in the negative and asked who he was. The teacher advised them to read the book attentively and told them that they would be able to know about him. He also exclaimed that Aesop's fables were very interesting and instructive.

16. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Barisal Govt. Girls' High School, Barisal)

The teacher said, "Nilima, your JSC Exam is knocking at the door. How is your preparation?" "Well, sir. I am confident about my performance in the exam." "Very good. May Allah help you to do well in the exam." "Thank you, sir," said Nilima.

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher told Nilima that her JSC Exam was knocking at the door and asked how her preparation was. Nilima replied respectfully that she was confident about her performance in the exam. The teacher said that it was very good and prayed that Allah might help her to do well in the exam. Nilima thanked him respectfully.

17. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Viqarunnisa Noon School & College, Dhaka)

The teacher said to the boy, "Do you know that honesty is the best policy?" The boy said, "Yes sir, I think so." "Learn to be honest from your boyhood," said the teacher. "Thank you sir," said the boy.

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked the boy if he knew that honesty was the best policy. The boy replied respectfully in the affirmative saying that he thought so. The teacher then advised him to learn to be honest from his boyhood. The boy thanked him respectfully.

18. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Ideal School & College, Motijheel, Dhaka)

Nabila said to the English teacher, "Sir, I want to improve my English. How can I do that?" "Don't worry. I shall help you," said the teacher. "Thank you, sir," said Nabila. "Give emphasis on all the four skills of language namely listening, speaking, reading and writing," said the teacher.

✓ **Answer:**

Nabila told her English teacher respectfully that she wanted to improve her English and asked how she could do that. The teacher told her not to worry and said that he would help her. Nabila thanked him respectfully. The teacher then advised her to give emphasis on all the four skills of language namely listening, speaking, reading and writing.

19. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Dhaka Residential Model College, Dhaka)

Once I asked a sweet little girl, "What is your mother's name?" She replied cleverly, "I know my mother's name but I won't tell you that." I said, "What a clever girl you are!" "I don't tell my mother's name to anybody whom I don't know," she spoke with an air of confidence.

✓ **Answer:**

Once I asked a sweet little girl what her mother's name was. She replied cleverly that she knew her mother's name but she would not tell me that. I exclaimed that she was a very clever girl. She spoke with an air of confidence that she did not tell her mother's name to anybody whom she did not know.

20. Rewrite the following passage changing the form of speech. (Bogra Zilla School, Bogra)

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della. "I buy hair," said Madam. "Take your hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it." "Twenty dollars," said Madam. "Give it to me quickly," said Della.

✓ **Answer:**

Della asked the Madam if she would buy her hair. The Madam said that she bought hair and told her to take her hat off so that they could have a sight at the looks of it. The Madam offered twenty dollars. Della told her to give it to her quickly.

21. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Rangpur Zilla School, Rangpur)

"My dear son, give me a glass of water. I am very thirsty. Perhaps the temperature has gone very high." "Well, let me fetch it for you. Please wait a bit." "May Allah bless you."

✓ **Answer:**

Addressing as dear son someone asked him to give a glass of water and added that he was very thirsty. He also added that perhaps the temperature had gone very high. The son replied that he would fetch it for him and requested him to wait a bit. The person prayed that Allah might bless him.

22. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Udayan Higher Secondary School, Dhaka; Barisal Cadet College; Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Public College)

The teacher said to the girl, "Do you think that honesty is the best policy?" The girl said, "Yes, sir, I think so." "Then learn to be honest from your childhood," said the teacher. "Thank you, sir." "May Allah grant you a long life," said the teacher.

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked the girl if she thought that honesty was the best policy. The girl replied respectfully in the affirmative saying that she thought so. The teacher then advised her to learn to be honest from her childhood. The girl thanked him respectfully. The teacher prayed that Allah might grant her a long life.

23. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Monipur High School & College, Mirpur, Dhaka)

"Have you taken your meal, Tahmid?" said the mother. "Yes, I have taken my meal," replied Tahmid. "Will you eat any fruit? Eat some mangoes," the mother said.

✓ **Answer:**

The mother asked Tahmid if he had taken his meal. Tahmid replied in the affirmative saying that he had taken his meal. The mother asked if he would eat any fruit and told him to eat some mangoes.

24. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Adamjee Cantonment Public School, Dhaka)

"Have you killed the rats?" said the Mayor. "Yes, I have," said the Piper. "Give me the promised money." "How funny!" said the Mayor. "We cannot give you so much money. Take only fifty."

✓ **Answer:**

The Mayor asked the Piper if he had killed the rats. The Piper replied in the affirmative and asked him to give him the promised money. The Mayor exclaimed that it was very funny and added that they could not give him so much money and told him to take only fifty.

25. Rewrite the following passage in the reported speech. (Mirzapur Cadet College, Tangail)

"I have got GPA-5 in the JSC examination," said Tanvir. "Congratulations." "What do you intend to do now?" asked Mamun. "I want to study in a reputed school. I try to get admission in Mirzapur Cadet College," said Tanvir. "Well, you will do better in the long run but it's difficult to do," said Mamun.

✓ **Answer:**

Tanvir said that he had got GPA-5 in the JSC examination. Mamun congratulated him and asked what he intended to do then. Tanvir replied that he wanted to study in a reputed school and added that he was trying to get admission in Mirzapur Cadet College. Mamun said that he would do better in the long run but it was difficult to do.

26. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College, Mymensingh)

"Have you finished the book that I gave you last night?" Kamal said to me. "Yes, I have," I replied. "What an interesting book it is! I wish I would borrow the book earlier," I said.

✓ **Answer:**

Kamal asked me if I had finished the book that he had given me the previous night. I replied in the affirmative. I exclaimed that it was a very interesting book and wished that I had borrowed the book earlier.

27. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Rajshahi Cadet College, Rajshahi)

Safwat asked his mother, "Are you going to New Market?" "No, but I shall go shopping there after visiting your aunt," answered Mrs Khairul Haq. "Please buy me a new shirt," he pleaded.

✓ **Answer:**

Safwat asked his mother if she was going to New Market. Mrs Khairul Haq answered in the negative but said that she would go shopping there after visiting his aunt. He then pleaded with her to buy him a new shirt.

28. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Pabna Cadet College, Pabna)

"Will you come to my house tomorrow?" I asked the boy. "We can discuss terms and conditions then," I said. "I shall be very happy to meet you at your house. Thank you so much," he replied.

✓ **Answer:**

I asked the boy if he would come to my house the next day. I also added that we could discuss terms and conditions then. The boy replied that he would be very happy to meet me at my house and thanked me very much.

29. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Joypurhat Girls' Cadet College, Joypurhat)

Kaniz said to her English teacher, "Sir, I want to improve my English. How can I do that?" "Don't worry. I will help you," said the teacher.

✓ **Answer:**

Kaniz told her English teacher respectfully that she wanted to improve her English and asked how she could do that. The teacher asked her not to worry and said that he would help her.

30. Change the following passage into indirect speech. (Jhenidah Cadet College, Jhenidah)

"Niloy, can you tell me what I am teaching?" the teacher asked. "I am sorry, I can not follow," replied Niloy. "You cannot, because you are not attentive," the teacher said.

✓ **Answer:**

The teacher asked Niloy if he could tell him what he was teaching. Niloy replied that he was sorry and added that he could not follow. The teacher told him that he could not because he was not attentive.