

Discurso Indirecto (Reported Speech)

Las palabras que la gente dice forman parte del ‘discurso directo’. El discurso indirecto es normalmente utilizado para describir lo que alguien dijo en un momento anterior.

Cuando reportamos un mensaje directo, utilizamos el pasado de verbos tales como: *to say* (decir), *to answer* (responder), *to ask* (preguntar), etc. El verbo del mensaje indirecto está frecuentemente en un tiempo verbal distinto al del verbo del mensaje directo. Lo mismo suele suceder con las expresiones de tiempo.

Por ejemplo:

Mensaje directo: “Your desk **is** really tidy *today*,” says Kelly.

‘Tu escritorio está realmente ordenado hoy’, dice Kelly.

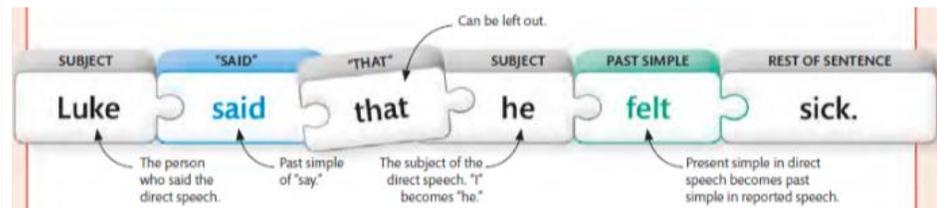
Mensaje Indirecto: Kelly said my desk **was** really really tidy *that day*.

Kelly dijo que mi escritorio estaba realmente ordenado ese día.

Habrás notado que el verbo del mensaje directo ‘says’ se transforma en ‘said’ en el mensaje indirecto; que el verbo ‘is’ (Presente Simple del verbo *to be*) del mensaje directo, se transforma al Pasado Simple ‘was’; y que la expresión de tiempo ‘today’, se modifica por ‘that day’.

Cómo reconocer una oración indirecta

Las oraciones indirectas normalmente siguen la siguiente estructura:



Cambios de tiempos verbales en el discurso indirecto		
Ejemplo	Mensaje Directo <i>(Direct Speech)</i>	Mensaje Indirecto <i>(Reported Speech)</i>
<p><i>"Why are you late?"</i> (‘Por qué llegás tarde?’)</p> <p><i>He asked me why I was late.</i> (Me preguntó por qué llegué tarde.)</p>	<i>Presente Simple</i>	<i>Pasado Simple</i>
<p><i>"We are trying to manage"</i> (‘Estamos intentando manejarlo.’)</p> <p><i>He said they were trying to manage.</i> (El dijo que estaban intentando manejarlo.)</p>	<i>Presente Continuo</i>	<i>Pasado Continuo</i> <i>Was/Were+verbo-ing</i>
<p><i>"I booked it last week."</i> (‘Lo reserve la semana pasada.’)</p> <p><i>He said he had booked it last week.</i> (El dijo que lo había reservado la semana pasada.)</p>	<i>Pasado Simple</i>	<i>Pasado Perfecto</i> <i>Had + pasado participio de un verbo</i>
<p><i>"Have you been to Spain?"</i> (‘Has estado en España?’)</p> <p><i>She asked if I had been to Spain.</i> (Ella me preguntó si había estado en España.)</p>	<i>Presente Perfecto Simple</i>	<i>Pasado Perfecto Simple</i>
<p><i>"I won't be able to come."</i> (‘No podré venir.’)</p> <p><i>She said she wouldn't be able to come.</i> (Ella dijo que no podría venir.)</p>	<i>Futuro Simple</i>	<i>Would* + verbo</i>
<p><i>"We can come tomorrow"</i> (‘Podemos venir mañana.’)</p> <p><i>They said they could come tomorrow.</i> (Ellos dijeron que podían venir mañana.)</p>	<i>Can*</i>	<i>Could* + verbo</i>
<p><i>"Are you good at computers?"</i> (‘Eres bueno con las computadoras?’)</p> <p><i>He asks me <u>if/whether</u> I was good at computers.</i> (Me preguntó si yo era bueno con las computadoras.)</p>	<i>Pregunta cerrada</i>	<i>if/whether + ☺ + verbo</i>
<p><i>"Where do you live?"</i> (‘Dónde vivís?’)</p> <p><i>They asked me <u>where</u> I lived.</i> (Me preguntaron dónde vivía.)</p>	<i>Pregunta abierta</i>	<i>WH- + ☺ + verbo</i>
<p><i>"Buy this monitor, Jack."</i> (‘Compra este monitor, Jack.’)</p> <p><i>He says to Jack to buy that monitor.</i> (El dijo a Jack que comprara ese monitor.)</p>	<i>Verbo Imperativo (afirmativo)</i>	<i>Verbo Infinitivo afirmativo</i>

	<p><i>“Don’t stare at the screen for a long time!”</i> (‘No mires fijamente a la pantalla por mucho tiempo.’)</p> <p><i>He asks (asked) me not to stare at the screen for a long time.</i> (Me pidió que no mirara fijamente a la pantalla por mucho tiempo.)</p>	<p>Verbo Imperativo (negativo)</p>	<p>Verbo negativo</p> <p>Infinitivo</p>														
<p>*modal verb</p> <p>Cambios en las expresiones de tiempo:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="492 871 1304 1087"> <tr> <td><i>this (these) →</i></td> <td><i>that (those)</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>now →</i></td> <td><i>then</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>today →</i></td> <td><i>that day</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>yesterday →</i></td> <td><i>the day before</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>tomorrow →</i></td> <td><i>the next day</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>ago →</i></td> <td><i>before</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>here →</i></td> <td><i>there</i></td> </tr> </table> <p>Actividad 1: Une las oraciones directas (1-8) con sus mensajes indirectos (a-h) correspondientes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The customer asks: “Is it an ink-jet printer?” 2. The customer says: “I will take this monitor.” 3. Dick asks: “Ann, do you have a monochrome monitor?” 4. Alice says: “ I have bought a colour monitor.” 5. The Instructor warns: “Don’t sit too close to the screen!” 6. Peter recommends: “Consider this processor. It’s more powerful.” 7. Alan says: “ I can see dots on the screen.” 8. The client says: “This is a flat panel liquid crystal display (LCD).” 				<i>this (these) →</i>	<i>that (those)</i>	<i>now →</i>	<i>then</i>	<i>today →</i>	<i>that day</i>	<i>yesterday →</i>	<i>the day before</i>	<i>tomorrow →</i>	<i>the next day</i>	<i>ago →</i>	<i>before</i>	<i>here →</i>	<i>there</i>
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- a. The customer said he would take that monitor.
- b. Peter recommended to consider that processor. It's more powerful.
- c. The client said that was a flat panel liquid crystal display (LCD).
- d. Alice said she had bought a colour monitor.
- e. The Instructor warned not to sit too close to the screen.
- f. Alan said he could see dots on the screen.
- g. The customer asked if that was an ink-jet printer.
- h. Dick asked Ann whether she had a monochrome monitor.

Actividad 2: Traducir los mensajes indirectos al español.

Actividad 3a: Lee la carta dirigida a la sección 'Derecho del Consumidor' de una revista de aerolíneas. Subraya mensajes indirectos.

Dear *Editor*

Last month I bought a ticket online for a flight from Frankfurt to Lisbon. When I arrived at the airport, the person at the check-in desk wanted to see the credit card that I had used to purchase the ticket. I explained that somebody had stolen my card while I was in Germany, so I had a new one. This card had my name on it, but it had a different card number.

I showed the airline representative both my passport and my copy of the confirmation email. However, he shook his head and said I would have

to purchase another ticket if I could not show him the original credit card.

Reluctantly, I paid €375 for another ticket to Lisbon. When I was back in Portugal, I contacted the airline customer service by phone and, after half an hour of conversation and argument, the airline company basically said there was nothing they could do. I don't think I should pay twice for my airline ticket. Can you help me?

Sean Bennet, Lisbon

	<p>Actividad 3b: Lee la carta nuevamente. Realiza la lectocomprensión de las siguientes oraciones, y decide si las mismas son ‘correctas’ (“Right”) o ‘incorrectas’ (“Wrong”). Si no hay suficiente información para elegir alguna de las opciones anteriores, selecciona ‘no dice’ (“doesn’t say”).</p> <p>a. The passenger had purchased the ticket with a credit card. Right Wrong Doesn’t say</p> <p>b. The passenger’s flight was with a German airline. Right Wrong Doesn’t say</p> <p>c. The names on the two cards were not the same. Right Wrong Doesn’t say</p> <p>d. The passenger had paid less than €375 for his original ticket. Right Wrong Doesn’t say</p> <p>e. He had to buy another ticket because he didn’t have a credit card. Right Wrong Doesn’t say</p> <p>f. The problem was solved by the airline customer service. Right Wrong Doesn’t say</p>
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