

LE DISCOURS INDIRECT

On emploie le discours indirect (reported speech) pour dire ce que quelqu'un a dit.

Deux solutions ;

- **discours direct:**

He said: "I'm watching TV".

- **discours indirect:**

He said (that) he was watching TV.

Le mot **that** est entre parenthèses parce qu'il n'est pas obligatoire.

Lorsque nous employons le discours indirect, nous parlons du passé. Dès lors, nous reculons toujours d'un temps par rapport au temps de la phrase directe.

Mary is happy.

He said (that) Mary was happy

I am going to buy a car

He said (that) he was going to buy a car

Temps dans la phrase directe	Temps dans la phrase indirecte
Play	Played
Played	Had played
I am playing	I was playing
I was playing	I had been playing
I have played	I had played
I had played	I had played
Must	Had to
Had to	Had to
Will	Would
Shall	Should
Can	Could

On ne modifie pas le temps du verbe dans la phrase indirecte quand on parle de choses qui sont toujours vraies :

Diamonds are more expensive than pearls

He said (that) diamonds are (ou were) more expensive than pearls

Computers have gone down in price

He said (that) computers have (ou had) gone down in price

Après **say** on n'est pas obligé d'employer un complément d'objet indirect (COI); après **tell** on est obligé d'en employer un.

Correct: *He told me [COI] (that) he didn't know the answer.*

Incorrect: *He said me he didn't know the answer.*

Correct: *He said (that) he didn't know the answer.*

Incorrect: *He told he didn't know the answer.*

On emploie l'infinitif dans le discours indirect avec **tell** et **ask** (pour des ordres et des requêtes):

My boss said: "Finish that project by Friday." (ordre)

The boss told me to finish the project by Friday.