

## UNIT-3 – SCHOOL LIFE

### I. DIRECT & INDIRECT SPEECH

Read the following imaginary conversation between Swami and the headmaster.

Headmaster: Why didn't you come to school yesterday?

Swami: Sir, my mother was suffering from fever.

Headmaster: I don't believe your words. You always say something or the other to escape from school.

Swami: I'm speaking the truth, sir.

Headmaster: Well, I'll come to your house tomorrow and talk to your parents.

In the **indirect speech**, the above conversation can be written like this.

The headmaster **asked** Swami why **he had not come** to school **the day before**. Swami **replied** respectfully that **his mother had been suffering** from fever. The headmaster **retorted** **that he did not believe his words** and added that he always said something or the other to escape from school. Then Swami **replied respectfully** that **he was speaking** the truth. Then the headmaster **told him that he would go to his house** the next day and **talk to his parents**.

As you can see, while converting the **direct speech** into **indirect speech**, the words in the bold are added to express the feelings, emotions, attitudes of the speaker and the sequences of the actions.

Read the following imaginary conversation between Swami and his father.

Swami's Father : My dear Swami, why are you looking so dull? Why haven't you gone to school today?

Swami : Daddy, I don't like the school. The headmaster beats me every day.

Swami's Father: Why does your headmaster beat you every day without any reason? I'm sure you must be causing a lot of nuisance in school.

Swami: No Dad. The headmaster beats all my friends in the same way.

Swami's Father: OK. What do you want to do now? Don't you go to school and continue your studies?

Swami: No, Dad. I'll join some other school.

Now change the conversation into indirect speech.

One day, Swami's Father asked his dear Swami as to why he was looking so dull and asked him why he had not gone to school that day. Swami replied respectfully to his daddy that he did not like the school and that the headmaster beat him every day. Swami's Father asked Swami as to why his headmaster beat him every day without any reason and added that he was sure Swami must be causing a lot of nuisance in school.

Swami replied in the negative and said that the headmaster beat all his friends in the sameway. Swami's Father asked him what he wanted to do then. He asked Swami if he did not want to go to school and continue his studies. Swami replied in the negative and added that he would join some other school.

## II. Noun Clause

**Look at the sentences taken from the story.**

1. One student said that he had an attack of a headache.

This sentence has **two clauses**.

a. One student said (**Principal clause**)

b. that he had an attack of a headache. (**Subordinate clause**)

The Subordinate clause is the object of the verb '**said**'. It is a noun clause.

The noun clause can also appear in the subject position as can be seen in the following sentence.

2. What you say is not clear to me.

If we replace the underlined part with 'it' in the above sentence, the sentence structure will be complete.

Note: Sometimes the word 'that'(conjunction) can be left out in spoken English. e.g., He felt that punishment was not enough. (that- adjective)

**Now read the following passage carefully and identify the noun clauses. Replace the underlined words 'that', 'so' and 'it' with suitable noun clauses.**

The headmaster entered the class furiously and said that he wanted to know the reason for the absence of some students in the class the day before. One student said that he had suffered from a severe headache. The headmaster said, "I don't believe that". The second said that somebody stopped him from coming to school. The headmaster said, "I don't think so". The third said that he too had suffered from a bad headache. On hearing that the headmaster shouted in anger. The fourth said that he had suffered from a terrible toothache. The headmaster said, "I don't believe it". The fifth said, "My grandmother died suddenly". The headmaster retorted that he would ascertain it. He said, "I will come to your house tomorrow to know the fact."

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### III. Editing

Read the following passage and edit (correct) the underlined parts.

Swami went home and says that the headmaster beats him severely. The parents asked that why the headmaster had beaten him. Swami said that the headmaster beats him yesterday. Swami’s father said why the headmaster has beaten him without any cause. Swami replied to his father that the headmaster beats him every day. Swami’s mother told Swami to attend the classes regularly.

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