

Direct and Reported Speech

Direct speech uses:

- speech marks
- the speaker's actual words
- new speaker, new line
- Narration about who said it can go **before, after or amongst** the speaker's actual words.

Reported speech:

- doesn't use speech marks
- changes pronouns, and often also changes word order
- adjusts verb tenses (and time phrases if necessary)
- usually starts by telling you who spoke
- often uses "that..." - but you can omit it

Part A: *Converting direct to reported speech*

Turn this dialogue into reported speech. **Write on alternate lines** so that there's lots of room for editing and marking.

"We're in an awful situation," Tom moaned.

"I agree," said Alice, "but I know of someone who may be able to help us."

"Who is it?" Tom asked eagerly.

"I'm not sure I can tell you," Alice replied.

"You can trust me," said Tom. "I'll be really careful."

"Stay quiet and let me think," Alice ordered.

Part B: *Converting reported to direct speech*

This time, the conversation is in reported speech. Try to reconstruct the original dialogue, using **direct speech** throughout. (*Throughout* = all the way through.)

Remember: New speaker, new line!

Alice said she now thought she knew what to do. Tom immediately asked her what her plan was, but Alice replied that she didn't have a plan yet; she was going to ask the person she had been talking about.

Tom asked whether she could tell him who it was. Alice told him not to worry and that he would find out very soon. Tom said that he would carry on clearing up the mess, as there was milkshake everywhere.