

INDIRECT SPEECH

Indirect speech focuses more on the content of what someone said rather than their exact words.

Infinitive Clause

Question

When we report somebody,
we can use **infinitive clause**
to give only the meaning.

Mom told me **to
be confident.**



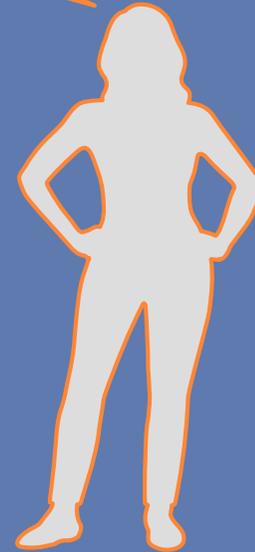
Be confident!

OK!

Infinitive Clause

We use **infinitives** to begin the **clause**.
We can, of course, use passive voice.

I was told **to stand** here.



Direct Speech



'Don't come here again!'

Indirect Speech



He told us not to go there again.

VS.

We can change the verb too.

Can you please keep it
quiet?



She's asking me **to**
keep it quiet.



We can change the verb too,
but the content doesn't
change.

Can you please keep it
quiet?



She's **asking** me to
keep it quiet.



We can use indirect speech with any tense.

You should follow a healthy diet!



The doctor **advised** me to follow a healthy diet.



We add '**not**' before infinitive to give negative meaning.

The police warned us **not to enter** that area.



OK. Let's not.



We use **whether** or **if**
to report **Yes/No** questions.

Are you tired?



You're asking me
if/whether I am tired.



Question

Note that
we don't use
the usual question form.

E.g. She asked me if I was tired. ✓

She asked me if was I tired. ✗

Because, if it were in the usual question form, it would be a question. But it's not a question. It's a statement.

Your cousin asked **if did I have a dog?**



Oh! My cousin asked **if you had a dog!** She has dog allergy.



Exercises

1. The boss likes punctual employees. He _____ (warn) us _____ (be) late.
2. They rushed into the building and _____ (threaten/kill) everybody in the bank.
3. Well, I must go to the grocery first. My wife _____ (ask) me _____ (buy) some vegetables.
4. I can't tell you everything. You can't know _____ (have) their numbers.
5. Please ask them _____ (if/they/want) to fly to Germany first.

***Turn the sentences below into indirect speech.**

1. 'Don't you ever come here!' _____
2. 'Are you laughing?' _____
3. 'You shouldn't procrastinate.' _____
4. 'Leave me alone.' _____
5. 'I will buy you a beautiful necklace.' _____

Answer Key

1. The boss likes punctual employees. He **warns** (warn) us **not to be** (be) late.
2. They rushed into the building and **threatened to kill** (threaten/kill) everybody in the bank.
3. Well, I must go to the grocery first. My wife **asked** (ask) me **to buy** (buy) some vegetables.
4. I can't tell you everything. You can't know **if I have** (have) their numbers.
5. Please ask them **if they want** (they/want) to fly to Germany first.

***Turn the sentences below into indirect speech.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 'Don't you ever come here!' | S/he told us not to go there. |
| 2. 'Are you laughing?' | S/he asked whether/if I was laughing. |
| 3. 'You shouldn't procrastinate.' | S/he advised not to procrastinate. |
| 4. 'Leave me alone.' | S/he told me to leave her/him alone. |
| 5. 'I will buy you a beautiful necklace.' | S/he promised to buy me a beautiful necklace. |