

Indirect Speech: Said, Told

FORM: When we are forming **indirect speech** we can use the verb “**said**”, as in:

Direct: Terry said, “I am from Colorado.”

Indirect: Terry said that he is from Colorado.

We can also use the verb “**told**” but the structure of the sentence changes. With “**told**” we always need a person who is receiving the information. This person is the indirect object of the sentence.

Direct: Terry said to me, “I am from Colorado.”

Indirect: Terry told me that he is from Colorado.

In the sentence above, “**me**” is the indirect object. “**me**” is the person who received the information.

USE: We use “**told**” when the person receiving the information is important. In this situation, the **direct speech** will often have “**said to [a person]**”, as in the example above. Or the receiver of the information will be clear from the situation. If the person receiving the information is not important, we use “**said**”.

Change the following sentences from DIRECT to INDIRECT speech. If the person receiving the information is important, use TOLD.

1. He said to his parents, “I am going away soon.” _____
2. Christie said, “Tom is my husband.” _____
3. “I don’t speak Spanish very well,” said Mitch to _____
his new Spanish teacher. _____
4. Simon said to the woman at the bar, “I work at a _____
bank.” _____
5. “I hate rainy days,” said Jim. _____
6. “I drive to work every day,” he said to me. _____
7. Monica said, “My computer course is difficult.” _____