

S.S.L.C. SECOND LANGUAGE- ENGLISH- GRAMMAR SECTION

INDIRECT SPEECH (REPORTED SPEECH)

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B) 'Yes/No' Questions

These are the questions demanding 'yes' or 'no' as the answers.

e.g.: Are you hungry? Will you come with me?

Do you know Telugu? Could they solve the problem easily?

You can notice that all these questions start with auxiliaries.

We used 'that' as the linker while reporting statements. Here, in reporting a 'yes/no' question, we have to use 'whether' or 'if'. We have to inverse the position of the auxiliary verb and the subject. (*I, we, you, he, she, it, they or there*)

[is it becomes it is, are you becomes you are, does your uncle's son becomes your uncle's son does, is the answer to q.no.4 becomes the answer to q.no.4 is, is there becomes there is.]

Changes in tense and pronouns are as in Statements.

Let us practise:

1. She asked me, "Are you not interested in my drawing?"

Ans: She asked me whether (are you becomes you are; here you refers to I) I was (corresponding past tense of are) not interested in her drawing.

2. My teacher asked Shankar, "Do you come to school by bus?"

Ans: My teacher asked Shankar if he came to school by bus.

3. The grandma asked the poet, "Can you build a house for me on the tree top?"

Ans: The grandma asked the poet whether he could build a house for her on the tree top.

4. She asked the conductor, "Does this bus stop near Nirmala Primary School?"

Ans: She asked the conductor whether the bus stopped near Nirmala Primary School.

5. She asked her mother, "Have you taken my new purse?"

Ans: Mary asked her mother if she (mother) had taken her (Mary's) new purse.

6. The Inspector asked Swami, "Did you bite the burglar's leg?"

(did bite=bit, this is in past tense, and so change this into past perfect, had bitten)

Ans: The Inspector asked Swami if he (Swami) had bitten the burglar's leg.

7. The gatekeeper asked Smitha, "Have you got a permission letter from the Pandithji?"

Ans: The gatekeeper asked Smitha whether she had got a permission letter from the Pandithji.

8. A sailor asked Columbus, "Did you see it, Sir?"

Ans: A sailor asked Columbus if he (Columbus) had seen it.

9. Father said, "Swami, can you prove that you have courage?"

Note: here 'said' has to be changed into 'asked'.

Ans: Father asked Swami whether he (Swami) could prove that he had courage.

10. "Are you coming with us, Manju?" Babu asked.

Ans: Babu asked Manju if she was coming with them.

11. The Headmaster asked Avtar Narain, "Do you think this is a school for the deaf?"

Ans: The Headmaster asked Avtar Narain if he (Avtar Narain) thought it was a school for the deaf.

12. The conductor asked the lady, "Am I a fool to accept this fake I.D.?"

Ans: The conductor asked the lady whether he was a fool to accept that fake I.D.

13. Mother asked her son, "Is there a canteen in your school?"

Ans: Mother asked her son whether there was a canteen in his school.

C) Reporting 'wh' questions.

'Wh' questions demand long answers. All these questions begin with a 'wh' word like *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, *how much*, *how many* etc.

Where is the Post Office? When is the concert?

Who asked you to take it? How do you come to school?

Here we use the same 'wh' word in the question to report the question. As in the 'yes/no' questions, here too we interchange the positions of the auxiliary verbs and the subjects.

Let us practise:

1. Swami's mother asked his father, "Why do you put him in trouble again?"

Ans: Swami's mother asked his father why he (Swami's father) put him (Swami) in trouble again.

2. Surender asked Satish, "Why didn't you come to school yesterday?"

Ans: Surender asked Satish why he (Satish) had not come to school the previous day.

3. "What will you do in life if you don't get education?" Avtar Narain asked his son.

Ans: Avtar Narain asked his son what he (son) would do in life if he didn't get education.

4. My teacher asked me, "When is your birthday?"

Ans: My teacher asked me when my birthday was.

5. Mother asked her son, "Where have you kept your Adhar card?"

Ans: Mother asked her son where he had kept his Adhar card.

6. She asked me, "What is the answer to Q.No.12?"

Ans: She asked me what the answer to Q.No.12 was.

7. The H.M. asked me, "How do you come to school?"

Ans: The H.M. asked me how I came to school.

8. Anant asked Smitha, "How many players did you see there?"

Ans: Anant asked Smitha how many players she had seen there.

9. The Inspector asked the students, "Who knows the phone number of the Principal?"

Note that here 'who' is the questioning word, demanding the subject as the answer. So, there will be no inversion of the auxiliary and the subject.

10. The Headmaster asked Swami, "Who told you to bite the burglar?"

Ans: The Headmaster asked Swami who *had* asked him to bite the burglar.

11. Madam asked the girls, "Who drew this figure on the blackboard?"

Ans: Madam asked the girls who had drawn that figure on the blackboard.

12. Manager: "Shaila, why have you not finished the project?"

Ans: The Manager asked Shaila why she had not finished the project.

13. "How can you open the box without my help?" Mother asked me.

Ans: Mother asked me how I could open the box without her help.

14. Shopkeeper: "How many eggs do you want, Sarita?"

Ans: The shopkeeper asked Sarita how many eggs she wanted.

Ans: The Inspector asked the students who knew the phone number of the Principal.

15. The Minister said to the lady, "Where did you get this certificate?"

Ans: The Minister asked the lady where she had got that certificate.

16. Headmaster: Students, when are you going to pay the exam fees?

Ans: The Headmaster asked the students when they were going to pay the exam fees.

17. She asked her father, "Dad, which page of this book contains the details of my horoscope?"

Ans: She asked her father which page of that book contained the details of her horoscope.

18. She asked me, "What are you doing here, sitting alone?"

Ans: She asked me what I was doing there, sitting alone.

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