

## Direct/Indirect Speech

We can write speech in two ways – as *direct speech* or as *indirect speech*.

Direct  
speech



Mr Halls screamed,  
“I am having a very  
bad day!”



INDIRECT SPEECH



Mr Halls screamed  
that he was having a  
very bad day!

For direct speech Mr Halls' actual words are written in the sentence. They have **inverted commas** around them.

For indirect speech Mr Halls' actual words are not written in the sentence. There are **no inverted commas**.

### A. Finish each sentence, putting in the direct speech. You have to work it out from the indirect speech sentences.

1. The old man remarked that he would be eighty next month.  
“.....,” remarked the old man.
2. The criminal protested that he was not guilty!  
The criminal protested, “.....!”
3. The teacher told me that I needed to learn my spellings better.  
“.....,” said the teacher.
4. Mark's Mum told him to get some eggs from the shop.

Mark's Mum said, "....."

5. The jockey said that his horse could gallop very fast.  
".....," said the jockey.

6. Dr Fisher told Jane the pills would make her feel much better.  
Dr Fisher explained, "....."

7. The man was shouting help, screaming that he couldn't swim.  
".....!" shouted the man, "....."

8. The gentleman asked the lady if she needed help changing the tyre.  
".....?" asked the gentleman.

## **B. Now try putting these direct speech sentences into indirect speech.**

a. "I can't afford those new trainers Sara!" explained dad.  
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b. "It's raining heavily!" remarked Uncle John.  
.....

c. "I'm feeling terribly sick!" groaned Bob's brother.  
.....

d. The mechanic explained, "The brakes need mending Mr Jones."  
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e. "I'll be leaving tomorrow!" shouted the disgruntled tenant.  
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f. "It's a glorious day for a picnic!" exclaimed Grandma.  
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g. The mountaineer boasted, "I could easily climb that mountain!"  
.....

h. "Has anyone seen my crown?" asked the king.  
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