

Genie-us

Word Work

Direct and Indirect Speech

1. The story of 'Genie-us', like lots of stories, has quite a lot of dialogue, or direct speech. It starts with an example:

'If you want to marry my daughter,' said the king, 'you must prove yourself worthy of her hand.'

Look through the text of the story and see how many examples you can find. You should find another ten.

2. Let's imagine that you were in the throne room the day the poor man came and asked for the princess's hand. On the following day a friend asked you what the king told the poor man to do. You'll remember that this was what the king said:

'You must climb to the top of the Ice Mountain, and fetch the magic lamp that a wicked rival stole from me.'

Of course, this is what the king said, so you wouldn't use the same words if you were reporting it a day afterwards. You would probably say something like:

The king told the poor man that he had to climb to the top of the Ice Mountain and fetch the magic lamp that a wicked rival had stolen from him.

Make a note of the changes:

must climb	<i>becomes</i>	had to climb
stole	<i>becomes</i>	had stolen
me	<i>becomes</i>	him

In other words, the tense changes to one point in time back, and the first person becomes the third person.

Here's (part of) another one that you should have found:

'.....he thinks he's good enough to marry my daughter! Well, he won't be back'

This might become

(The king said) that the poor man thought he was good enough to marry his daughter. He said he wouldn't be back.

Complete the changes as above

thinks	<i>becomes</i>
is (he's)	<i>becomes</i>

my *becomes*
won't *becomes*

NOTE: Discourse markers like 'Well' are left out because they are only used in direct spoken language.

3. Now look at the FIVE sentences taken from the text and turn them into indirect or reported speech.

1. a) 'I love the princess, and I will brave any peril for her!' cried the poor man.

1. b) *The poor man cried that* _____

2. a) 'Fetch the magic lamp that a wicked rival stole from me,' said the king.

2. b) *The king said that the poor man must* _____

3. a) 'Who are you?' asked the genie.

3. b) *The genie asked* _____

4. a) 'I'm a poor young man who loves the princess' he replied

4. b) *The poor man replied* _____

5. a) The king turned to the princess, 'Daughter, this is your future husband!'

5. b) *The king said* _____
