English Punctuation and Grammar

Direct and Indirect Speech

Direct speech is when we copy exactly (directly) what a person says - word for word.

E.g. Juno asked, "Is our homework due on Monday?"

Indirect speech is when we give the general idea of what a person has said, without copying it exactly. Indirect speech also does NOT require quotation (speech) marks.

E.g. Juno asked Mr Harney when our homework is due.

Copy the sentences below into your English book (under the heading 'Direct and Indirect Speech') and label whether they show direct or indirect speech.

E.g. Mary said, "I'd like to go to the Lady Gaga concert." = Direct speech

- 1. "Punctuality is important. It is not acceptable to be late to class," said Ms Kavanagh.
- 2. Mum made sure to tell me to put sunscreen on every couple of hours.
- 3. Dad said, "Remember to pack your bag tonight, so you don't forget things in the morning!"
- 4. Davina asked me to meet her on the guad at lunch.
- 5. Crystal announced, "The raffle prize winner is.... Anthony Thurston!"
- 6. I remember the fireman telling us to stop, drop and roll if we were ever on fire.

Direct speech requires THREE important additions: quotation marks ("and"), a comma and a capital letter, as shown below.

E.g. Alissa said, "We are going to the concert tonight!"

Or E.g. "We are going to the concert tonight," said Alissa.

Copy the sentences below into your English book and add the necessary details.

E.g. "Would you like to come to my party this Saturday?" Laura asked excitedly.

- 1. We went to Hamilton Island last summer said Mandy.
- 2. Lenora asked can't we hand in our homework on Monday, instead of Friday?
- 3. It takes more than half an hour to walk from the train station complained Jamie.
- 4. Tracey announced my favourite subject is English.
- 5. Advance Australia fair sang the audience.
- 6. I think that the author of the book is called John Marsden said Sean.

Hint:

Remember,
there MUST
be a piece of
punctuation just
before the end
quotation mark,
as well as a
capital letter
straight after the
first (opening)
quotation
mark.