**Direct Speech**

Quotation marks (or speech marks) “...” show us when somebody is talking.

·    When the direct speech comes before the person speaking, a comma is placed in front of the second speech mark.

“Come here. I want to give you something,” said Davina.

·    When the direct speech comes after the person speaking, the comma comes before the first speech mark.

Davina said, “Come here, I want to give you something.”

·    When the person speaking comes between two parts of the same sentence of direct speech, we use a comma before the closing speech mark of the first speech, and another comma before the start of the second speech.

“If you were to come here,” said Davina, “you would see something interesting.”

·    Start a new paragraph every time the speaker changes.

**Indirect Speech**

Indirect speech reports a conversation after it has happened:

·    Direct speech: “I don’t like cats,” Julie said.

·    Indirect speech: Julie said that she doesn’t like cats.

*Indirect speech* is different from *directed speech* in the following ways:

1.    Direct speech has quotation marks, indirect speech does not.

2.    With indirect speech the pronoun often changes. (see above example)

3.    With indirect speech, the word *that* is often used after *said*.

4.    Direct speech is exactly what the person said. Indirect speech is not exactly what the person said so some words can be changed.

5.    The verb used with indirect speech is changed to the past tense.