

Language Awareness for Key Stage 3

16: Complex Sentences — Part II

Key Terms	Optional Terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indirect Statement• Complementizer• Clause• Tense• Mood• Non-Finite• Infinitive• Gerund• Participle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct Speech

- Introduction: Complex Sentences
 - Today we will look at a specific type of complex sentence: indirect statements
 - We will also see how tense and mood can behave differently in simple and complex sentences
 - We will look at differences among languages in how they use tense and mood
 - We will also look at how sentences can be combined using non-finite verb forms
- Indirect Statements
 - As we saw last time, forming indirect statements is one use of complementizers
 - Indirect statements let you integrate what is said into a sentence about the person speaking
 - Mary said, “John left”
 - Mary said **that John left**
 - When changing from direct to indirect speech, sentences change to maintain a constant perspective
 - John says, “I have your book here”
 - John says **that he has my book there**
 - Everything that would only be correct from John’s point of view has to change to fit someone else’s point of view
 - In English, one of the things that changes is tense
 - John says, “Mary is ill”
 - John said **that Mary was ill**
 - You can also keep the tense unchanged
 - John said **that Mary is ill**
 - However, this means something different
 - It means that Mary is still ill when you are speaking, not just when John was speaking
 - However, there are other languages that do not do this
 - In languages like Japanese, tense is the same in direct and indirect speech
 - John said **that Mary was ill** ← John said, “Mary was ill”
 - John said **that Mary is ill** ← John said, “Mary is ill”
 - Mary may or may not still be ill
 - Indirect statements do not just occur with verbs like *say*
 - They are found with a variety of verbs, which allows you to say different things about the embedded sentence

- Changing the verb can change whether the embedded sentence is true or not
 - Mary is ill = Mary ill
 - John *knew* that Mary was ill = Mary ill
 - John *said* that Mary was ill = Mary ill or not ill
 - John *pretended* that Mary was ill = Mary not ill

Activity 1:

Take some time and make a list of other English verbs that can be followed by complementizers in this way. Which ones mean that the statement in the embedded clause must be true? (e.g. *know*) Which ones mean that it must be false? (e.g. *pretend*) Which ones say nothing about whether it is true or false? (e.g. *say*)

Verb	Truth Value

- Tense and Mood
 - We have seen how indirect statements can involve a change in tense
 - Sometimes they can also involve a change of mood
 - You may remember that we have looked at the indicative and subjunctive moods in English
 - Mary was ill
 - John wished that Mary weren't ill
 - Some languages, such as French, make much more extensive use of the subjunctive in indirect statements
 - Marie est malade
'Mary is ill'
 - Je doute que Marie soit malade
'I doubt that Mary is ill'
 - Je ne doute pas que Marie est malade
'I don't doubt that Mary is ill'
 - You can see that this is connected to the use of the subjunctive for things that are less real
 - The subjunctive can also be used in situations where there is no doubt that something is true
 - Je suis désolé que Marie soit malade
'I'm sorry that Mary is ill'
 - This sentence does not mean that Mary isn't ill
 - The subjunctive might suggest that the connection between Mary's being ill and my being sorry is always the same, whether she is actually ill or not

Activity 2:

In groups, take some time to think of any other languages that you might know. Try to come up with examples of indirect questions and indirect statements in these languages. Which languages show a change of tense for statements made in the past? Which languages have different moods, and where are these used?

Language	Tense Shift?	Moods	Mood Examples

- Non-Finite Clauses
 - So far we have looked at ways of embedding one sentence in another while keeping its original structure
 - There are other ways of embedding sentences that make greater changes
 - You may remember that one way is by converting a finite verb to a non-finite verb
 - In some cases, we can express the same idea using a finite clause or a non-finite clause
 - I believe that Mary is ill
 - I believe Mary to be ill
 - Note that finite verbs have a nominative subject, while infinitives have an accusative subject
 - I believe that she is ill
 - I believe her to be ill
 - Because non-finite verbs have no tense, there are some distinctions that are lost when you use them
 - I believe that Mary was ill ↘
 - I believe that Mary has been ill ↗ I believe Mary to have been ill
 - However, non-finite clauses are easier for some things, such as making passives
 - Mary is believed to have been ill
 - In some languages infinitives are the normal means of expressing indirect speech
 - Iōánnēs phēsì Marían eînai nosódē (Greek)
 - Johannes dicit Mariam esse aegram (Latin)

‘John says that Mary is ill’
(literally, ‘John says Mary to be ill’)
 - It is also possible to replace finite clauses with gerunds or participles
 - Because Mary is ill, John is worried
 - Because of Mary’s being ill, John is worried
 - Mary being ill, John is worried
- Conclusion
 - We have looked at the use of complex sentences for indirect statements
 - We have seen the different things that complex sentences let you say about an embedded sentence
 - We have also looked at the shifts in viewpoint involved in indirect statements
 - These shifts often require special changes in tense and mood
 - Finally, we have seen how non-finite clauses can be used instead of finite clauses.