

Claoninsint

Indirect Speech Review

There's plenty of dialogue in our Dineen story, direct quotations of what the characters say. That offers a good opportunity to refresh our skills at *reporting* what was said without actually *quoting* the speaker. This reporting is known as *indirect speech*, or *claoninsint* in Irish. Some instructors and texts suggest that this is very challenging for students, but I have always found it straightforward.

A couple of quick examples from our story (and slightly edited, if necessary, to specify the speaker):

"Chaith Seáinín Sheáin béile tigh Shé aréir," arsa an Sáirsint.
Dúirt an Sáirsint gur chaith Seáinín Sheáin béile tigh Shé aréir.

"Tá geallúint aici ó dhuine des na Leaheys i Missouri," ar sise.
Dúirt sí go bhfuil geallúint aici ó dhuine des na Leaheys i Missouri..

"Beidh orm deabhadh a dhéanamh," arsa Annie.
Dúirt Annie go mbeadh uirthi deabhadh a dhéanamh.

The Steps

To report what was (or is being) said:

1. You need a front end, usually of the *He said, She says*, variety. But it could also be something like *It was reported, or I heard*, etc.
2. The particles *go/nach* are used before the verb in all but the Past tense, and are followed by eclipsis. The particles *gur/nár* are used before the past tense, followed by lenition (and there is no 'd' before vowels, etc.). Those irregular verbs that have dependent forms use them after these particles, and also use *go/nach* even in the past tense: *Dúirt siad go raibh sí ...*
3. For the copula, *gur/nach* are used for the present/future: *Deir sí gur madra é. Gurb* will be used before *é, í, iad*. *Gur* is also used for the past/conditional, but followed by lenition, where possible, and *gurbh* is used before vowels or *f*. *Nár* is used for negative past, with lenition, and the form *nár* before vowels.
4. Sometimes the verb tense may need adjustment, mainly the future to the conditional. That is, *"Beidh mé ag an rang, " arsa Kerry >> Dúirt Kerry go mbeadh sí ag an rang."*
5. You may also need to adjust a few words to reflect a change of perspective, so to speak:

<p>"Tá mo mháthair tinn," a deir Tom. "Tá a fhios 'am," arsa Jean.</p>	<p>Deir Tom go bhfuil a mháthair tinn. Dúirt Jean go raibh a fhios aici.</p>
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On the next page, you will find a number of utterances taken directly from the next section of the Dineen story, but again, slightly edited, to make them shorter, to connect them to a speaker, and so on. Turn each of those quotations into reported (indirect) speech.

CLAONINSINT: PRACTICE

1. 'Tá m'athair amuigh leis na gadhair,' arsa Brídín.
2. 'Beidh Mam togtha isteach go Trá Lí ag na poilíní, a Athair,' ar sise.
3. 'Is i ngeall ar bhur máthair a tháinig mé anseo,' arsa an Duinníneach.
4. 'Ní chreidim gur dhein sí díobháil ar bith," ar seisean.
5. "Cuireadh amach as an teach sinn," ar sise.
6. "Ní thogfadh se aon fhaid uaim an cupán tae a réiteach," arsa Brídín.
7. 'D'itheamar an ghé,' arsa Nora
8. "Chuala mé go bhfuil an t-uisce is fearr in Éirinn sa cheantar seo," arsa Pádraig.
9. "Is fíor dhuit, a Athair" arsa Brídín.
10. 'Thug sé leathghalún leanna leis agus shuigh sé féin agus m'athair chun é a ól," arsa Róisín.
11. "Chuaigh Brídín agus Nóra ag bailiú broсна chun an tine a bhíogadh," ar sise.
12. 'Níor ith Seáinín aon cheo di,' arsa Nóra.
13. 'D'éirigh Seáinín ocrach sular fhill Maim nó Brídín,' arsa Róisín.
14. "D'imigh sé abhaile ansin, " arsa Brídín.
15. "Níor thug Seáinín na ciaróga faoi ndeara," arsa Róisín.