

LESSON 12

Directly Reported Speech

All speaking or writing may be directly reported in the exact words of the original speaker or writer. The following sections quote examples from a range of genres and periods.

12.1. Homer

Normally, the speeches in the Homeric epics were formally introduced. And either their conclusion was marked, or the immediate response of the next speaker was introduced.

πολλὰ δ' ἔπειτ' ἀπάνευθε κιῶν ἠράθ' ὁ γεραῖος
Ἀπόλλωνι ἄνακτι, τὸν ἠΰκομος τέκε Λητώ·
κλυθί μευ, ἀργυρότοξ', ὃς Χρύσην ἀμφιβέβηκας
Κίλλαν τε ζαθέην Τενέδοιό τε ἶφι ἀνάσσεις,
Σμινθεῦ, εἴ ποτέ τοι χαριέντ' ἐπὶ νηὸν ἔρεψα,
ἢ εἰ δὴ ποτέ τοι κατὰ πίονα μηρί' ἔκηα
ταύρων ἠδ' αἰγῶν, τόδε μοι κρήνην ἐέλδωρ·
τίσειαν Δαναοὶ ἐμὰ δάκρυα σοῖσι βέλεσσιν.
ὥς ἔφατ' εὐχόμενος, τοῦ δ' ἔκλυε Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων ...
(Hom.*Il.* 1.35–43.)

*And then, going far away, **he, the old man**, earnestly **prayed**
to lord Apollo, whom lovely-haired Leto bore:
'Hear me, you with the silver bow, who have taken your stand over Chryse
and sacred Cilla and rule with strength over Tenedos,
Smintheus, if ever I roofed over a shrine pleasing to you,
or if indeed ever I burned up for you fat thighs
of bulls and goats, fulfil this wish for me:
may the Danaans pay for my tears by your arrows'.
So he spoke as he prayed, and Phoebus Apollo heard him ...*

12.2. Drama

All dramatic dialogue is, by its nature, direct speech; but it is not directly reported speech. However, in drama short passages of direct speech may be quoted within a longer speech. Most commonly, this may occur within a messenger's speech.

Πενθεὺς δ' ὁ τλήμων θῆλυν οὐχ ὀρών ὄχλον
ἔλεξε τοιάδ'· ὦ ξέν', οὐ μὲν ἔσταμεν,
 οὐκ ἐξικνούμαι μαινάδων ὄσσοις νόθων·
 ὄχθων δ' ἔπ', ἀμβὰς ἐς ἐλάτην ὑψαύχενα,
 ἴδοιμ' ἂν ὀρθῶς μαινάδων αἰσχουργίαν. (E.Ba. 1058–1062, within
 the speech 1043–1152.)

*But Pentheus, the poor man, not seeing the female crowd,
 spoke in the following way: 'O stranger, <from> where we are standing
 I do not reach with my eyes the spurious maenads;
 but on a mound, getting up into a stately fir-tree,
 I would see properly the disgraceful-behaviour of the maenads.'*

12.3. Historiography

The first passage of directly reported speech in Thucydides's *History of the Peloponnesian War* is formally introduced, begins with an elaborate opening sentence, continues for five chapters and has its conclusion formally marked.

καταστάσης δὲ ἐκκλησίας ἐς ἀντιλογίαν ἦλθον· καὶ οἱ μὲν
Κερκυραῖοι ἔλεξαν τοιάδε. δίκαιον, ὧ Ἀθηναῖοι, τοὺς μήτε
 εὐεργεσίας μεγάλης μήτε ξυμμαχίας προφειλομένης ἤκοντας
 παρὰ τοὺς πέλας ἐπικουρίας, ὥσπερ καὶ ἡμεῖς νῦν, δεησομένους
 ἀναδιδάξαι πρῶτον, μάλιστα μὲν ὡς καὶ ξύμφορα δέονται, εἰ δὲ μή,
 ὅτι γε οὐκ ἐπιζήμια, ἔπειτα δὲ ὡς καὶ τὴν χάριν βέβαιον ἔξουσιν·
 ... **τοιαῦτα μὲν οἱ Κερκυραῖοι εἶπον**· (Th. 1.31.4–1.32.1; 1.36.4.)

*And when an assembly had been arranged, they came to put their arguments;
 and the Corcyreans spoke in the following way. ' <It is> (only) fair, O
 Athenians, that those, who have come to their neighbours, when there is prior
 indebtedness neither for a great benefit nor for an alliance, to ask for aid, just
 as indeed we <have> now, should first explain, especially that they are actually
 making a request that is advantageous [i.e. to those who are asked], but*

*otherwise, that at least <it is> one that is not disadvantageous <to them>, and secondly that they [= providers] will get gratitude that is sure; ...' **Such** <were the words which> **the Corcyreans spoke**.*

12.4. Prose Quotation Formulae

In prose, short passages of reported speech are often marked by the insertion of a form of φάμαι ('to say') after an opening word, phrase or clause.

ἦν μέντοι ἐγὼ γένωμαι στρατηγός, **ἔφη**, πολεμήσω σοι, ὦ Ἀγησίλαε, ὡς ἂν ἐγὼ δύνωμαι κράτιστα. (X.Ages. 3.5; biography.)

*'But if I become general', **he said**, 'I shall make war on you, O Agesilaus, as forcefully as I possibly can.'*

ἔφην is listed in Liddell and Scott (1996) as (Past) second Aorist. In some grammars and in Montanari (2015), this form is treated as Past Imperfect. According to Smyth (1956, §788), ἔφην is both (Past) Imperfect and (Past) Aorist. Even those grammars which present the ἔφην forms as Past Imperfect may translate these forms as 'I said', etc. It is indeed usual to translate the ἔφην forms into English by a simple Past Tense, 'I said', etc.

Present and Past Imperfect forms of ἡμί ('I say') are used in the same way, but they occur only in first person singular and third person singular. These forms are regularly followed by δ(έ) (which serves no function) and then by the first and third person singular pronouns ἐγὼ and ὅς, ἧ. The Past Imperfect forms function as a general Past Tense.

πρότερον δέ μοι, **ἦ δ' ὅς**, εἰπέ, σὺ αὐτὸς παρεγένου τῇ συνουσίᾳ ταύτῃ ἢ οὐ; (Pl.Smp. 172 B; philosophical dialogue.)

*'But first tell me', **he said**, 'did you yourself attend this gathering or not?'*

12.5. ὅτι and ὡς as Quotation Markers

In prose, ὅτι (rarely ὡς) is sometimes used immediately before a passage of directly reported speech. In this usage, ὅτι has the function of quotation marks and should not be translated. This idiom is colloquial; it first occurs at Hdt. 2.115.4–6. The fact that the following example contains a directly reported statement, and not just a Vivid indirectly reported statement, is confirmed by the second person pronouns ὑμᾶς and ὑμῶν.

... ὁ τελευταῖος διαπλεύσας αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ τῶν ἐκ τῆς ἠπείρου Λακεδαιμονίων ἀνὴρ ἀπήγγειλεν ὅτι Λακεδαιμόνιοι κελεύουσιν ὑμᾶς αὐτοὺς περὶ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν βουλευέσθαι μηδὲν αἰσχρὸν ποιῶντας· (Th. 4.38.3.)

... *the last man to sail across to them from the Spartans on the mainland reported: 'The Spartans order you yourselves to decide concerning yourselves, provided that you do nothing shameful'.*

References

Goodwin (1889), *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb*, §§662, 711.

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§2589–2590.

EXERCISE 12

Translate the following passages.

- καὶ τότε δὴ με ἔπεσσι προσηύδα πότνια Κίρκη·
ταῦτα μὲν οὕτω πάντα πεπεύρανται·

προσαυδᾶν	<i>to address</i>
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- ἐπεὶ δὲ μόχθων τέρματ' οὐκ ἐξήνυτον,
ἔλεξ' Ἀγαύη· φέρε, περιστᾶσαι κύκλω
πτόρθου λάβεσθε, μαινάδες, ...

μόχθος, -ου, ὁ	<i>labour</i>
ἔξανύ(τ)ειν	<i>to accomplish, to attain</i>
φέρε	<i>come on!</i> (sg. Impv. used also for pl.)
πτόρθος, -ου, ὁ	<i>sapling</i>
λαμβάνεσθαι (Mid.)	<i>to take hold (of) (+ Partitive Gen.)</i>

3. παρελθὼν δὲ Σθενελαΐδας τελευταῖος, εἰς τῶν ἐφόρων τότε ὦν, ἔλεξεν τοῖς Λακεδαιμονίοις ὧδε. τοὺς μὲν λόγους τοὺς πολλοὺς τῶν Ἀθηναίων οὐ γινώσκω ...

παρελθεῖν (Aor.)	<i>to come forward</i>
Σθενελαΐδας, -ου, ὁ	<i>Sthenelaidas</i>
ἔφορος, -ου, ὁ	<i>ephor</i> (one of five annual magistrates at Sparta)
Λακεδαιμόνιος, -α, -ον	<i>Spartan</i>

4. ταῦτα μὲν τοίνυν προθυμησόμεθα, ἔφη, οὕτω ποιεῖν· θάπτωμεν δέ σε τίνα τρόπον;
ὅπως ἂν, ἔφη, βούλησθε, ἔάνπερ γε λάβητέ με καὶ μὴ ἐκφύγω ὑμᾶς.

τοίνυν	<i>well then</i>
προθυμεῖσθαι (Mid.)	<i>to be eager, to be keen</i> (+ Infin.)
θάπτειν	<i>to bury</i>
τίνα (τρόπον)	delayed interrogative
The second speaker responds to the first.	

5. ἀλλὰ μὰ Δία, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, οὐκ οἶδα, ἀλλὰ τῷ ὄντι αὐτὸς εἰλιγγιῶ ὑπὸ τῆς τοῦ λόγου ἀπορίας ...

τῷ ὄντι	<i>in reality</i>
(ε)ἰλιγγιᾶν	<i>to be(come) dizzy</i>
ὑπὸ (+ Gen.)	<i>under (the influence/effect of)</i>
ἀπορία, -ας, ἡ	<i>difficulty</i>

6. προσελθόντες δέ μοι τῇ ὑστεραία Μέλητος καὶ Εὐφίλητος ἔλεγον ὅτι γεγένηται, ὦ Ἄνδοκίδη, καὶ πέπρακται ἡμῖν ταῦτα.

ὑστεραία	Understand ἡμέρα (standard idiom)
γίγνεσθαι	<i>to happen</i>
ἡμῖν	Dat. of Agent with Perf. Pass. verb

7. 'I know', he said, 'both that you had been born a private citizen, and that you are now a monarch'.

<i>to have been born</i>	γεγενῆσθαι (Perf. Pass.)
<i>private citizen</i>	ιδιώτης, -ου, ὁ
<i>monarch</i>	τύραννος, -ου, ὁ

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