

8

A CASE OF SUSPICION

A country doctor sets out to help a patient in the middle of a windy night. Whom does he meet on the way? And, what does he learn? Let's read and find out.

**OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- read and understand a suspense story in English;
- use phrasal verbs;
- change direct-speech to indirect speech;
- give and understand direction in speech; and
- write a paragraph reporting experiences.

8.1 SECTION I

He threw back the covers and sat up on his bed, his feet feeling along the cold floor for his house slippers, the telephone ringing insistently, a little distance away.

He turned on the light and walked to the phone, and took down the receiver.

“This is Doctor Benson,” he said.



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The November wind was bringing sounds of winter as it blew around the little white house. The doctor got into his clothes. He went to the table and stared a moment at his watch, his spirit complaining at the job ahead of him.

Two o'clock. His mind also complained at the horrible hour and he wondered why children had to be born at such improper times. He took up two small handbags, the short pill bag, as the people of the town knew it, and the long obstetrical case, the baby bag they called it.

Doctor Benson stopped a moment to light and, then put the pack of cigarettes in his overcoat pocket. The wind felt like a surgeon's knife at his face as he opened the door and ran, bending low, around the driveway to the garage.

His car started with difficulty, coughed half a dozen times as he drove down the driveway but then began to run more smoothly as he turned down Grass Street and on to the deserted highway.

Mrs. Ott Sorley, who Doctor Benson was on his way to visit, already had almost a dozen children, but it seemed to the doctor that never once had she had a baby in good weather, nor in daylight. And while Doctor Benson was a country doctor, he was still a young man and couldn't find the pleasure that his father, the old Doc Benson had found in seeing Ott, the father, always two or three babies behind in payment of his baby bills.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.1**

1. Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):
 - a. The doctor in the story was an elderly man.
 - b. His father had been a country doctor too.
 - c. The doctor liked late night calls.
 - d. The doctor carried two bags on his visits.
 - e. Mrs. Ott Sorley was having her first baby.
2. Answer the questions briefly
 - a. At what time did Doctor Benson receive the call?
 - b. Who did he visit? Why?
 - c. What did the doctor carry in his bags?
 - d. Did the doctor receive prompt payment? How do you know?

8.2 SECTION II

How do you think the story proceeds? Will it be about Mrs. or Mr. Sorley? Or will there be a chance meeting with someone else? Read ahead to find out.

It was a long ride to the Sorley farm and the sight of a man walking alone along the country road, as seen just ahead by the lights of the car, was a welcome relief to the doctor. He slowed down and looked at the man walking along with difficulty against the wind, a little package under his arm.

Coming alongside, Doctor Benson stopped and invited the man to ride. The man got in.

“Are you going far?” asked the doctor.

“I’m going all the way to Detroit,” said the man, a rather thin man with small black eyes filled with tears from the wind. “Could you give me a cigarette?”

Doctor Benson unbuttoned his coat, then remembered the cigarettes in the outer pocket of his overcoat. He took out the packet and gave it to the rider who then looked in his own pockets for a match. When the cigarette was lighted, the man held the packet a moment, then asked, “Do you mind, mister, if I take another cigarette for later?”. The rider shook the packet to remove another cigarette without waiting for the doctor to answer. Doctor Benson felt a hand touch his pocket.

“I’ll put them back in your pocket,” the little fellow said. Doctor Benson put his hand down quickly to receive the cigarettes and was a little irritated to find them already in his pocket.

A few minutes later, Doctor Benson said, “So you’re going to Detroit?”

“I am going out to look for work in one of the automobile plants”

“Are you a mechanic?” asked the doctor.

“More or less, I’ve been driving a truck since the war ended. But I lost my job about a month ago.”

“Were you in the army during the war?”

“Yeah, I was in the ambulance section. Right up at the front. Drove an ambulance for four years.”

“Is that so?” said Doctor Benson. “I’m a doctor myself. Doctor Benson is my name.”



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“I thought this car smelled like pills,” the man laughed. Then he added, more seriously, “My name is Evans.”

They rode along silently for a few minutes and the rider moved himself in his seat and placed his package on the floor. As the man leaned over, Doctor Benson caught his first good look at the small, catlike face.

The doctor also noticed the long deep scar on the man’s cheek, bright and red – looking as though it were of recent origin. He thought of Mrs. Ott Sorly and reached for his watch. His fingers went deep into his pocket before he realized that his watch was not there.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.2**

1. Say whether the following statements are true (T) or False (F):
 - (a) A man asked the doctor for a lift in his car.
 - (b) The man was crying because he badly wanted a cigarette.
 - (c) Evans was now working as a mechanic in an automobile plant.
 - (d) The doctor offered him two cigarettes.
 - (e) Evans had been an ambulance driver in the army.
2. Answer the following questions briefly: (55-60 words)
 - (a) Why did the doctor invite the man in?
 - (b) How many cigarettes did the man take? Did the doctor like it? How do you know?
 - (c) What irritated the doctor about the man?
 - (d) Who was Evans? Where was he going?
 - (e) Pick out two expressions from the passage that show the doctor was suspicious of Evans.
 - (f) Why did the doctor reach for his watch?
 - (g) Did the doctor find his watch? What do you think he thought? Did his suspicion fall on Evans?

8.3 SECTION III

Did the doctor like Evans' small catlike face and bright fresh scars? Would you have thought well of Evans? What do you think will happen next?

Doctor Benson moved his hand very slowly and very carefully below the seat until he felt the leather holster, in which he always carried with him, his automatic pistol.

He drew out the pistol slowly and held it in the darkness at his side. Doctor Benson stopped the car quickly and pushed the nose of his gun into Evans' side.

The rider jumped with fear and put up his hands quickly "My God, mister," he whispered "I thought you..."

Doctor Benson pushed the pistol still deeper into the man's side and repeated coldly, "Put that watch in my pocket before I let this gun go off."

Evans put his hand in his own vest pocket and later, with trembling hands, tried to put the watch into the doctor's pocket. With his free hand, Doctor Benson pushed the watch down into his pocket. He opened the door and forced the man out of the car.

"I'm out here tonight, probably to save a woman's life, but I took time out to try to help you," he said to the man angrily.

Doctor Benson started the car quickly and the wind closed the door with a loud noise. He put the pistol back into the leather holster under the seat and hurried on.

The drive up the mountain to the Sorley farm was less difficult than he had feared and Ott Sorley had sent one of his older boys down the road with a lantern to help him across the old wooden bridge that led up to the little farm house.

Mrs. Sorley's many previous experiences with bringing children into the world apparently helped her greatly because she delivered this child with little difficulty and there was no need on Doctor Benson's part for the instruments in the long bag.

After it was all over, however, Doctor Benson took a cigarette and sat down to smoke.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.3**

Answer the following questions briefly: (15-20 words)

1. Why did the doctor reach for his pistol? What did he do with it?



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2. What was Evans' reaction? What did he do?
3. Why did the doctor turn Evans out of his car?
4. Where was the Sorley farm? Who helped him reach it?
5. Did the doctor have any difficulty with his patient? How do you know?
6. How do you know that the doctor was relaxed after the baby was born?

8.4 SECTION IV

Was the doctor right in turning Evans out in the cold? Do you think he will ever know whether he was right or wrong? Was the case of suspicion justified?

“A fellow I picked up in my car on my way up here tonight tried to rob me,” he said to Ott, feeling a little proud. “He took my watch. But when I pushed my 0.45 pistol into his side, he decided to give it to me back.”

Ott smiled wide at such an exciting story coming from young Doctor Benson.

“Well, I'm glad he gave it back to you,” Ott said, “Because if he hadn't, we wouldn't have any idea what time the child was born. What time would you say it happened. Doc?”

Doctor Benson took the watch from his pocket.

“The baby was delivered about thirty minutes ago, and right now it's” He walked over to the lamp on the table.

He stared strangely at the watch in his hand. The crystal was cracked, the top was broken, he turned the watch over and held it closer to the lamp. He studied the worn inscription there.

“To Private T. Evans, Ambulance Section, whose personal bravery preserved our lives the night of Nov. 3, 1943 near the Italian front. Nurses Nesbitt, Jones and Wingate.”

-E. Wallace



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.4

1. Refer to the words in the passage that show Doctor Benson felt he was justified in turning Evans out?
2. Why was Mr. Sorley happy that Doctor Benson got back his watch?

3. How did the doctor realise that he was not looking at his own watch?
4. What information did the inscription give about Evans?



OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. (i) Do you think the title of the passage is appropriate?
(ii) Who is suspicious? Of whom?
(iii) Was it justified?
2. (i) What was the doctor's impression about Evans?
(ii) How did the doctor realise his mistake?
3. (i) Would you call doctor Benson a kind and gentle doctor?
(ii) Would Evans think of him in the same way? If not, why?
4. Dr. Benson was prejudiced against Evans because of his shabby appearance, uncouth manners, the scar on his face and irritating behaviour. Therefore, when he lost his watch, he immediately suspected Evans of having stolen it.
When we are unable to find something in our own house should we:
(a) blame ourselves?
(b) blame others?
(c) calmly try to locate it?
(d) Select an alternative and justify it?

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

Fill in the blanks using the correct forms of the phrasal verbs given in the box.

put back put on put up put out put off put by

1. Every wise person _____ a little money for a rainy day.
2. Please _____ the fire after you have cooked rice.
3. The meeting was _____ as the chairman was not well.
4. Please _____ the dictionary on the top shelf after you have looked up the meaning of the words.



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5. _____ your cardigan as it is cold.
6. The team _____ a great performance.

REFERENCE SKILLS

Consult your dictionary and

- i) complete these idiomatic expressions.
 - ii) use their correct forms in the sentences below:
 - Have a finger in every _____.
 - Put our heads _____.
 - Have all the facts on his _____.
 - Put her foot _____.
 - Make head or _____.
1. Our questions were quickly answered as the travel agent _____.
 2. I can't _____ of this strange message.
 3. Ravi knows a little about all the six different projects. Let's ask him about your project as he _____.
 4. Let's _____ and see if we can decipher this message in code.
 5. The principal _____ and told his clerks that he wasn't going to grant him any more leave.

GRAMMAR

Reported speech: Reporting of statements and questions.

Rules for changing direct speech into indirect speech.

We make a number of changes when we change from direct speech to indirect speech:

- (i) Remove the inverted commas.
- (ii) Remove the comma separating the reporting verb from the actual words spoken.
- (iii) Study the kind of utterance reported and introduce an appropriate reporting verb, if necessary. For example, replace "tell" or "say" with "ordered" for commands; "pleaded" for requests, etc.

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- (iv) Study the context to change the personal pronouns. 'I' to he/she; we to they, etc. The change depends on who is reporting to whom.

For example: Rita: I hate to see you in saris.

(to Anju)

Anju reporting to Rani: Rita said that she hates to see me in saris.

Rani reporting to Subhash: Rita said that she hates to see Anju/her in saris.

- (v) Make changes in words expressing nearness and time.

For example, this becomes that

Here – there

Tomorrow – the next day

Yesterday – the previous day/ the day before

- (vi) Use 'that' to introduce statements in reported speech. 'That', however, can be dropped.

Ex. 1: Some of the sentences spoken by Doctor Benson and Evans (direct speech) are given in Column A. Column B has those sentences in reported or indirect speech (i.e. as the speaker or listener would report to someone else afterwards.) Match column A with Column B.

Column A	Column B
(i) "This is Doctor Benson," he said,	a) Evans asked for a cigarette.
(ii) "Are you going far?" asked the doctor.	b) He ordered Evans to put that watch into his pocket.
(iii) "I'm going all the way to Detroit," said the man.	c) He introduced himself as Dr. Benson.
(iv) "Could you give me a cigarette?" Evans said.	d) Evans wondered whether he could take another cigarette for later.
(v) "Do you mind, mister, if I take another cigarette for later?"	e) The doctor enquired whether he was going far.
(vi) "Put that watch into my pocket," he said angrily.	f) The man declared that he was going all the way to Detroit.

Ex.II.Study the matched pairs of sentences. Do they carry same or similar meaning? Yes. Are both the direct and reported speech sentences spoken at the same time

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or moment? No! we cannot use the reported speech until after the words have been directly spoken. Therefore, we change the verb in direct speech into its corresponding past tense form. We also change the reporting verb “tell” or “say” according to the kind of speech act reported.

Study the sentences in Column B in 1 above and list the reporting verbs introduced.

Ex.III. Complete the sentences by selecting the appropriate reporting verb from the box below. You will have to put it into past tense form, wherever necessary.

Admit, agree, announce, argue, claim, complain, confess, declare, exclaim, inform, mention, promise, remember, suggest, regret, tell.

1. (a) The criminal said, “I have committed the murder.”
(b) The criminal _____ that he had committed the murder.
2. (a) Asha said, “Oh! I’ve failed in Maths.”
(b) Asha _____ that she had failed in Maths.
3. (a) Ravi’s father said, “I think you could seek your uncle’s advice.”
(b) Ravi’s father _____ that he could seek his uncle’s advice.
4. (a) My brother said to me, “I’ll give you a watch if you stand first in class.”
(b) My brother _____ he would give me a watch if I stood first in class.
5. (a) Manik told Shruti, “Last month I attended the science conference in Hyderabad.”
(b) Manik _____ Shruti that he had attended the science conference in Hyderabad last month.

CHANGE THE INTERROGATIVES

Change “said” to “asked” or “enquired”.

For wh- question do not use ‘that’, begin directly with the same wh- question word.

For ‘yes – no’ questions, indirect speech is introduced by if/whether.

The question form is changed into the statement form.

For example:

(Direct speech) Rani to Ravi – How did you travel to Pune?

(Indirect speech) Neha to her friend – Ravi asked Rani how she travelled to Pune.

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(Direct speech) Ravi to Rani – Do you have a rose garden?

(Indirect speech) Rani to her friend – Ravi asked me whether I have a rose garden.

Negatives and verbal short forms (shan't, can't isn't) appear in full in written reported speech.

Ex.IV. Change the following questions into indirect speech:

- (a) 1. He said to me, "Are you going home?"
2. He said, "Did you see my brother yesterday?"
3. He asked me, "Which bus stops here?"
4. My friend said, "What is your brother doing these days?"
5. My brother said, "Does Ram know my address?"

(b) Match the questions in direct speech with the reported speech in Column B.

Column A	Column B
i. What is your name?	a) He asked whether I had a comfortable journey.
ii. Where do you live?	b) He asked me how long I would stay here.
iii. Could you tell me your date of birth?	c) He asked me what my name is.
iv. How long will you stay here?	d) He wondered if I could tell him my date of birth.
v. Did you have a comfortable journey?	e) He asked me where I lived.

(c) Study the sentences in 5A to say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- i. The word order in reporting questions is the same as in statements.
ii. In reporting a wh- question the connecting word 'that' is used.
iii. 'Whether' or 'if' is used in reporting yes-no questions.



LET'S TALK

Worksheet

Listen to the conversation on giving and taking directions. Then fill in the blanks below:

- 1) Speaker 1 asked speaker 2 for direction to the _____.

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- 2) Speaker 2 first asked speaker 1 to go _____.
- 3) Secondly, speaker 1 was asked to take the _____.
- 4) At the T crossing, speaker 1 was asked to turn _____.
- 5) The rest house was on the _____ side of the road.

LET'S WRITE**Reporting experiences**

What is an experience?

All of us keep having some experience or the other everyday. But how can one define an experience? We can perhaps say that an experience is an event that affects or influences one in some way.

In this lesson, you are going to learn about reporting or describing experiences.

The language that you will need to use for describing experiences will be in the following areas:

Expressing the past :

- reporting complete actions
- describing complete actions
- describing thoughts and feelings
- using first 'I' in reporting personal experience
- active voice

Sequencing the past

- using all forms of past tense
- using linking as sequencing device

Read this paragraph where R.K. Narayan, a very famous Indian writer of 'Malgudi Days' fame, describes his experience as a small child of watching a lamplighter lighting up the street lights.

This paragraph describes a scene in Madras (now Chennai) in the early twentieth century.

It was exciting, one day, to be asked to go with my uncle to the street of shops. I clung to his arm and marched along. It was the evening hour. I noticed a man with his hand and shoulder stuck through a bamboo ladder, going from post to post lighting the street lamps. The lamp posts were few and far between hexagonal

glass shades on top of cast iron pillars. The lamplighter was an old man wearing a khadi coat and a blue turban, equipped with a ladder, a box of matches, rags and a can of oil. He moved from pillar to pillar, unhurryingly. I was fascinated. I had never thought that there could be so much to do to light up the dark nights. Clinging to my uncle's fingers, I watched him. He went up his ladder, opened a little ventilator, took out the lamp, cleaned and wiped it with the rag, filled it with oil, lit up the wick and closed the shutter, climbed down, thrust his shoulder through the ladder again and passed on to the next one. I had numerous questions welling up within me, all sorts of things I wished to know about the man- his name, where he came from, if he slept wearing the ladder, what he ate and so forth but before I could phrase them properly, I had to be moving along with my questions unuttered.

Now let's analyse this passage.

- i. The writer uses past tense throughout.
- ii. There is description of
 - a. The street lamp (description of an object)
 - b. The lamp lighter (description of a person)
 - c. How he lighted the lamps (description of a process where sequences of action is important)
- iii. The writer expresses his thoughts and feelings about the experience.

The expression 'it was exciting.....?' 'I was fascinated' convey his feelings. A lot of thought, in the form of questions come to his mind on watching the lamp lighter light the lamp. There is a feeling of disappointment expressed when he says 'I had to be moving along with my questions unuttered.'

Recollect the definition of experience and read this paragraph.

The Day I Stood And Became A Man

I reached the door of my home sweating not from exhaustion but from fear. I opened the door. A calm feeling came over me as I sat down. One more day, I had escaped it. But no more would I run or hide. I would stand and be a man and fight. The next day as I walked to school, out from behind a tree, the bully came. We stood face to face, fear ran through my body. Then he swung and I swung. As blood ran from his nose, my fear turned to courage. But then something happened. The fight stopped. We stood like that for a minute. No words were said, and then he smiled and I smiled.

The paragraph begins with a sense of fear and then a decision is taken and finally there is a sense of satisfaction and happiness.



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These kinds of experiences become an unforgettable part of one’s life.

Exercise

- 1. Describe in about 100 words a pleasant childhood experience.
(You can attempt writing on any one or all the three ideas given here)

Some ideas:

- (i) The day I was declared the best student of my class.
- (ii) The most exciting family gathering in my grandmother’s village.
- (iii) On my fourteenth birthday. (Need not be true)

Remember to:

Write in the past tense and sequence the happenings. Write about your thoughts and feelings during the experience.

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- 2. This is a passage which describes the landing of Armstrong and Aldrin on the moon. This is written in present tense and the third person. Read the whole passage once, then rewrite the entire passage in past tense and first person. Imagine you are Neil Armstrong.

It is Sunday, 20th July, 1969. The American astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, in the Eagle landing craft, are slowly dropping down towards the surface of the moon. They glide over the rocks and craters until they see a clear and level space suitable for landing. Down Down.... Until the feet of the Eagle gently touch and settle on the moon’s surface. Through the crackling radio comes Armstrong’s voice.

Decent engines stopped. Over-ride switch off. The Eagle has landed. Very smooth touch down. We are in the middle of a wide, oval plain about eight miles by three miles with some hills on the horizon. Large number of craters about five to fifty feet across.... Every variety of rock here, not much colour, mostly greyit’s beautiful

Later, the two astronauts climb out and walk on the surface of the moon. They kick up a fine, powdery, dust-like charcoal that sticks to their boots and clothes.

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They plant a flag, but without air to make a breeze, it hangs limply. There is no sign of water or any form of life.

The sun glares out of a black cloudless sky. Far away the earth shines blue and white. During a long Moon day, the temperature rises to 118°C but falls to nearly -113°C at night.

In their clumsy space suits, the astronauts find movement difficult, but the low gravity helps them to bounce and hop about like kangaroos. They scoop up specimens of rocks and dusty moon “soil” from the surface to bring back to earth. Besides sending back pictures by television, they take colour photographs and cine film.

Soon it is time for them to return to their spacecraft to prepare for the long journey back to earth.

And behind them in the dust, they leave their footprints a reminder of how men first walked upon the moon.

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

Intext Questions 8.1

1. F, T, F, T, F
2. (a) Two o'clock, (b) Mrs. Sorley to deliver her baby, (c) pills and surgical things treatments, (d) No-previous bills were pending payment.

Intext Questions 8.2

1. T, F, F, F, T
2. (a) Man was walking in bad weather (b) two
(c) appearance (d) ambulance driver
(e) Detroit, “small, cat like face”, “long deep scar on the man’s cheek”,
(f) to see how far from Sorley farm he was.
(g) No. It thought Evans had stolen the watch.

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Intext Questions 8.3

1. To protect himself from Evans, pointed it at Evans.
2. Surprised. Returned the watch
3. Believed Evans had stolen the watch.
4. Up the mountain, an escort from the farm.
5. No, "Mrs Sorley... delivered this child with little difficulty".
6. Sat down to smoke.

Intext Questions 8.4

1. "A fellow I picked up ... gave it to me back".
2. Would be able to learn the time the baby was born.
3. The inscription on the watch carried Evan's name.
4. That he was actually being truthful.

OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. (i) Yes (ii) Doctor Benson of Evans (iii) No.
2. (i) That Evans was a mysterious character
(ii) seeing the inscription on the watch.
3. (i) Yes, but was fooled by Evan's appearance
(ii) No, he pointed a pistol at him for no reason.

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

put by, put out, put off, put back, put on, put up.

GRAMMAR

Ex. I. (i) c, (ii) e, (iii) f, (iv) a, (v) d, (vi) b

Ex. III. (1) admitted, (2) regreted, (3) suggested, (4) promised, (5) informed

Ex. IV.(a) 1. He asked me whether I was going home.

2. He asked whether I/he saw his brother the previous day.

3. He asked me which bus stopped there.

4. My friend asked what my brother was doing those days.

5. My brother asked whether Ram knew his address.

(b) (i) c, (ii) e, (iii) d, (iv) b, (v) a

(c) (i) T, (ii) F, (iii) T