Arabic B2, lesson 7: reported speech

سَأَلَ
he asked

أَجابَ
he answered

طَلَبَ مِنْ
he asked (someone) to

أَخْبَرَ
he informed

أَكَّدَ
he confirmed

قَرَّرَ
he decided

حينَ
when

سَفَر
travel

ذَلِكَ
that

بَعْدُ

yet

قالَتْ سَلْمى إِنَّها تُريدُ السَّفَرَ.

سَأَلَها أَخوها مَتى تُسافِرُ.

فَأَجابَتْ أَنَّها لا تَعْرِفُ بَعْدُ.

وَطَلَبَ مِنْها أَنْ تُخْبِرَهُ حينَ تُقَرِّرُ.

وَأَكَّدَتْ أَنَّها سَتَفْعَلُ ذَلِكَ.

▶ **Show the translation**

To **report** speech (الكَلام المَنْقول):

- **A statement**: قالَ + **إِنَّ** + nominal sentence; or another speech verb + **أَنَّ** (أَخْبَرَ أَنَّ, أَكَّدَ أَنَّ). The subject of the reported sentence is accusative and often a suffix pronoun: قالَتْ إِنَّها...

- **A command**: أَمَرَهُ / طَلَبَ مِنْهُ + **أَنْ** + subjunctive verb: طَلَبَ مِنْها أَنْ تُخْبِرَهُ. Negative command: **أَلّا** (= أَنْ + لا): طَلَبَ مِنْهُ أَلّا يَتَأَخَّرَ.
- **A question**: سَأَلَ + **هَلْ** or a question word (مَتى, أَيْنَ, لِماذا); the verb stays indicative: سَأَلَها مَتى تُسافِرُ.

The **pronouns change** with the speaker: "أَنا أُريدُ" becomes قالَتْ إِنَّها تُريدُ. The verb tense need not shift, unlike French: the present stays present.

From direct to indirect

Direct	Indirect
قالَتْ: أَنا أُريدُ السَّفَرَ	قالَتْ إِنَّها تُريدُ السَّفَرَ
قالَ: اِفْتَحِ البابَ	أَمَرَهُ أَنْ يَفْتَحَ البابَ
قالَ: هَلْ تَأْتي؟	سَأَلَهُ هَلْ يَأْتي
قالَ: لا تَتَأَخَّرْ	طَلَبَ مِنْهُ أَلّا يَتَأَخَّرَ

Put the words in order.

Salma said she wanted to travel.

قالَتْ | تُريدُ | إِنَّها | السَّفَرَ | سَلْمى

Her brother asked her when she was travelling.

أَخوها | سَأَلَها | تُسافِرُ | مَتى

She confirmed she would do it.

سَتَفْعَلُ | أَكَّدَتْ | ذَلِكَ | أَنَّها

Check | Start again

Report a four-line conversation in indirect speech with قالَ, إِنَّ, سَأَلَ, مِنْ, طَلَبَ and أَكَّدَ.

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