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C2 · REPORTED SPEECH · ≈ 27 MIN

Free Indirect Speech — *practice on paper*

You recognise free indirect speech; now build fresh presentation scenes with immediate character thoughts.

Free indirect speech: first the	**scene**	, then the vivid thought one form back;	**no introduction**	with said or thought

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD · 1 · SORTING ○ · 2 · FILL-IN ○ · 3 · CORRECT ○ · 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 1 · SORT IMMEDIACY OR INTRODUCTION · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Sort each English extract. On the left, the thought follows the scene directly; on the right, a verb introduces it.

- Rina read the rota. Surely it was outdated.
- Jon opened the memo. Had they missed page two?
- Leah checked the total. Surely it was wrong.
- Sam stared at the inbox. Would it ever empty?
- Omar read the note. This made no sense.
- Rina said the draft was not final.
- Jon wondered if they had missed page two.
- Leah thought the total had to be wrong.
- Sam asked whether the queue would ever end.
- Omar said the note made no sense.

FREE INDIRECT	INTRODUCED THOUGHT

BRICK 2 · SHIFT THE THOUGHT BACK · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Insert exactly the words given in the English cue. Each scene identifies the thinking character first.

01 Tariq studied the invoice. It _____ be genuine. (use was unlikely to)

02 Ada opened the folder. Surely Legal _____ the warning. (use had seen)

03 Ben read the forecast. Why _____ risen? (use had the costs)

04 Liv checked the sender. This _____ a mistake. (use seemed to be)

05 Ravi scanned the totals. They _____ add up. (use did not)

06 Mei saw the queue. Would the system _____ today? (use recover)

07 Noah reviewed the email. Who _____ it? (use had approved)

08 Eva read the minutes. This _____ the final copy. (use was unlikely to be)

YOUR BUILD · 1 · SORTING · 2 · FILL-IN · 3 · CORRECT · 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · RESTORE THE CHARACTER VOICE · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each extract misses one target feature. Follow the English cue and use the stated correction.

01 Rina paused and wondered whether the draft could be final. (rewrite as "Rina paused. Could the draft be final?")

02 Inez opened the ledger. Surely the clerk has altered every total. (change "has altered" to "had altered")

03 Mina frowned and thought, "The figures were impossible." (delete "and thought," and the quotation marks)

04 The minutes read: "Paula froze. Could this be fraud?" (replace with "Paula raised a fraud concern.")

05 Nia passed the draft to Eva. She could not believe the total. (replace "She" with "Eva")

06 Owen opened the log. This can't be the signed version. (change "can't" to "couldn't")

BRICK 4 · WRITE A CASE-STUDY SCENE · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write one short English extract for each prompt. Name the character first, then let the thought follow without said or thought.

01 Presentation: a project lead opens a risk register and doubts the approval.

02 Case study: a consultant sees a doubled timeline and reacts internally.

03 Question: an analyst reads an unusual figure; her thought appears as a question.

04 Register shift: write one vivid thought, then return to a neutral fact.

MINI-CHECK — CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I identify the acting character clearly before the thought.
- ☐ I omit introductions with said or thought.
- ☐ I shift the thought back to fit the past scene.
- ☐ I use free indirect speech for case studies, not minutes.

Still unsure? Underline the scene, character, and thought, then check whether an introduction remains.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 Rina read the rota. Surely it was outdated.
Free indirect: the thought follows without introduction.

02 Jon opened the memo. Had they missed page two?
Free indirect: the question follows without introduction.

03 Leah checked the total. Surely it was wrong.
Free indirect: surely marks Leah's immediate viewpoint.

04 Sam stared at the inbox. Would it ever empty?
Free indirect: Sam's question has no introduction.

05 Omar read the note. This made no sense.
Free indirect: Omar's evaluation follows directly.

06 Rina said the draft was not final.
Introduced thought: said introduces the report.

07 Jon wondered if they had missed page two.
Introduced thought: wondered introduces the question.

08 Leah thought the total had to be wrong.
Introduced thought: thought introduces the idea.

09 Sam asked whether the queue would ever end.
Introduced thought: asked introduces the question.

10 Omar said the note made no sense.
Introduced thought: said introduces the evaluation.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 Tariq studied the invoice. It **was unlikely to** be genuine.
One form back: was unlikely to fits the scene.

02 Ada opened the folder. Surely Legal **had seen** the warning.
Earlier moment: had seen precedes opened.

03 Ben read the forecast. Why **had the costs** risen?
Earlier moment: had shifts the increase back.

04 Liv checked the sender. This **seemed to be** a mistake.
One form back: seemed to be carries Liv's view.

05 Ravi scanned the totals. They **did not** add up.
One form back: did not fits the scene.

06 Mei saw the queue. Would the system **recover** today?
Thought question: would takes the base form.

07 Noah reviewed the email. Who **had approved** it?
Earlier moment: approval precedes reviewed.

08 Eva read the minutes. This **was unlikely to be** the final copy.
One form back: was unlikely carries Eva's doubt.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 **Rina paused. Could the draft be final?**
No introduction: the thought follows directly.

02 Inez opened the ledger. Surely the clerk **had altered** every total.
Earlier moment: had altered precedes opened.

03 **Mina frowned. The figures were impossible.**
No introduction: the thought remains immediate.

04 **Paula raised a fraud concern.**
Minutes: neutral wording replaces interior viewpoint.

05 Nia passed the draft to Eva. **Eva** could not believe the total.
Clear character: Eva removes the ambiguity.

06 Owen opened the log. This **couldn't** be the signed version.
One form back: couldn't fits opened.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your scenes may differ if the character is clear, the thought follows without an introduction, and you keep minutes neutral.

01 Sofia opened the risk register. This could not have been approved.
Scene first: Sofia's doubt follows without introduction.

02 Daniel unfolded the plan. Two extra months? Impossible.
Direct viewpoint: Daniel's reaction remains unintroduced.

03 Aisha studied the margin. Had someone moved the decimal?
Thought question: Aisha's viewpoint follows the scene.

04 Marco read the alert. This looked serious. The system recorded three failed checks.
Register shift: a fact follows the thought.

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