

Indirect quotes

Getting the Story · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

You may misunderstand the term "indirect quote". A quote is something someone says. Your interviewee might have said verbatim (word for word):

"I couldn't, ahh, god, ahh, I couldn't [cough] care less if the bastard wins or loses, or, geez, jumps in the lake, or, er, ahh, jumps over the, the moon."

You might write it as a direct quote:

"I couldn't care less if the bastard wins or loses, or jumps in the lake," Mr Smith said as he thumped his desk.

Or you might write it as an indirect quote:

Mr Smith thumped his desk and said he didn't care if Mr Jones won or lost.

"Indirect" means NOT inside quotation marks, that is, not as he actually spoke it, but still conveying the accurate meaning of what the person said, but leaving out all words that are not necessary in conveying the meaning of what he said.

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