**Indirect Speech**  with compliments from Graham Thomason דִיבּוּר עָקִיף

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | DIRECT SPEECH דִיבּוּר יָשִׁיר  |  |  | INDIRECT SPEECH דִיבּוּר עָקִיף  |
| Futureעָתִיד | I shall go..אֵלֵך |  |  | You say (that) you will go..אַתָה אוֹמֵר שֶׁתֵלֵךYou said you **would** go. .אָמַרתָ שֶׁתֵלֵך |
| Presentpunctiliarהוֹוֶה | I go (every day)..אֲנִי הוֹלֵך |  |  | You say you go (every day)..אַתָה אוֹמֵר שֶׁאַתָה הוֹלֵךYou said you **went** (every day)..אָמַרתָ שֶׁאַתָה הוֹלֵך |
| Presentcontinuousהוֹוֶה | I am going (now)..אֲנִי הוֹלֵך |  |  | You say you are going (now)..אַתָה אוֹמֵר שֶׁאַתָה הוֹלֵךYou said you **were** going (now)..אָמַרתָ שֶׁאַתָה הוֹלֵך |
| Habitualpastפּעוּלָה הֶרגֵלִית | I used to go..הָיִיתִי הוֹלֵך |  |  | You say you used to go..אַתָה אוֹמֵר שֶׁהָיִיתָ הוֹלֵךYou said you used to go..אָמַרתָ שֶׁהָיִיתָ הוֹלֵך |
| Imperfectעָבָר | I was going..הָלַכתִי |  |  | You say you were going..אַתָה אוֹמֵר שֶׁהָלַכתָYou said you were going..אָמַרתָ שֶׁהָלַכתָ |
| Preteriteעָבָר | I went..הָלַכתִי |  |  | You say you went..אַתָה אוֹמֵר שֶׁהָלַכתָYou said you went..אָמַרתָ שֶׁהָלַכתָ |
| Perfectעָבָר | I have gone..הָלַכתִי |  |  | You say you have gone..אַתָה אוֹמֵר שֶׁהָלַכתָYou said you **had** gone..אָמַרתָ שֶׁהָלַכתָ |

Notes:

* There is no formal distinction between the ***present*** ***punctiliar*** and ***present continuous*** in Hebrew. The context must decide.
* There is no formal distinction between the ***imperfect***, ***preterite*** and ***perfect*** in Hebrew. Again, the context must decide.
* In indirect speech following a main clause in the past, the subordinate clause in English may undergo a tense change (shown above in **bold**), whereas in Hebrew this is not generally the case.

This document (version of 11 March 2010) compiled by Graham Thomason, with help from the staff at LJCC.org.uk. No copyright claimed.