REPORTED SPEECH

Read these sentences from the text. Identify the reported speech.

1. He immediately tweeted that he had just seen a plane Crash in the Hudson.
2. People contacted him immediately and asked him what was happening.
3. The government said that there had been an earthquake.
4. Meanwhile, people living in the disaster area were posting videos and telling the world that it was an emergency and houses were collapsing.
5. People even phoned his programme to ask if their relatives were safe.

What do you think they actually said (or tweeted)? Complete the sentences.

1 Jim Hanrahan: 'I _____ a plane crash in the Hudson.'

2. Other people (to Jim Hanrahan): 'What _____'

3 The government of Haiti: 'There _____ an earthquake."

4 People in the disaster area: 'It _____ an emergency. Houses _____ collapsing."

5 Radio listeners: '_____ my relates safe?'

Choose the correct words in the rules.

1 When we report what someone has said of written, we often change the tense of the direct speech backwards / forwards in time.

2 We use question order / normal sentence order in reported questions.

3 We often don't change the tense when we report things which are still true/ no longer true.

Match the tenses based on how they change in reported speech.

Past perfect continuous **Past perfect** **Past perfect** **Would** **Past simple**

Direct speech	**Reported speech**
Present simple	_____
Past simple	_____
Present perfect simple	_____
Present perfect continuous	_____
Will	_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reported speech rules

Reported speech and direct speech

When we talk about what somebody said or thought, we can use direct speech or reported speech:

- *Direct speech:* He said, 'I don't want to talk to you.'
- *Reported speech:* He said he didn't want to talk to me.

3.3

Direct speech		Reported speech
*'I **don't want** to talk to you.'*	→	*He said he **didn't want** to talk to me.*
*'I'**m planning** to resign.'*	→	*She said she **was planning** to resign.*
*'I'**ve** already **told** you.'*	→	*He said **he had** already **told** me.*
*'I **saw** you break it.'*	→	*I told him I **had seen** him break it.*
*'I'**m going to cook** tonight.'*	→	*You said you **were going to cook** tonight.*
*'I'**ll** see you soon.'*	→	*He said he **would** see me soon.*
*'I **can't** hear you.'*	→	*She said she **could**n't hear me.*
*'You **may** be right.'*	→	*He said I **might** be right.*

Some modal verbs (*would, could, should, might*) stay the same in reported speech:

*I'**d** like to go.* → *He said he'**d** like to go.*

*It **might** be difficult* → *She said it **might** be difficult.*

3.4 **Reported questions**

When you report a *Wh-* question, put the subject before the verb. Don't use the auxiliary *do / does / did*:

*'Where **are you** from?'* → *She asked me where **I was** from.*

*'Why **did she say** that?'* → *He asked me why **you had said** that.*

For *Yes/No* questions, use *if/whether*. *Whether* is more formal than *if*:

'Are you going to help?' → *We asked them **if** they were going to help.*

'Did you visit the London Eye?' → *She asked us **whether** we had visited the London Eye.*

Other changes

When we report speech, we usually need to change the pronouns (e.g. *I, he*) and possessives (e.g. *my*), depending on who is talking to whom. Time and place words may also need to change:

*'**I** want **you** to give **this** message to **your** boss **tonight**.'*

→ *She said **she** wanted **me** to give **a** / **the** message to **my** boss **that night**.*

> **Tip**
>
> You don't need to change the tense when you want to show that the speaker's words are still true now:
> *I **told** you yesterday that I **don't** want to talk to you.*
> (= I still don't want to talk to you today.)

say and *tell* have different patterns. Always use a person or pronoun after *tell*:

*Tom **said** he had a new car.* NOT ~~*Tom said me he had a new car.*~~

*Tom **told me** he had a new car.* NOT ~~*Tom told he had a new car.*~~

Complete the reported speech with the correct verb form. Change the tense where possible.

1 It's going to be a lovely day. — He said it _____ a lovely day.

2 I don't want to go out this evening. — She told me she _____ that evening.

3 We're waiting for you. — They said they _____ for us.

4 My sister can't drive. — She said her sister _____

5 I've lost my car keys. — She told me she _____ her car keys.

6 Lucy might have a new job. — He said Lucy _____ a new job

7 I'll help you with those bags. — He said he _____ with my bags.

8 Mark bought a new car. — You told me that Mark _____ a new car

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read Harry's conversation with Andy. Then choose the best word or phrase to complete Andy's conversation with Harry's sister, Lucy.

HARRY Hi. I'm trying to buy a present for my sister, Lucy. It's her birthday tomorrow.
ANDY What sort of books does she like?
HARRY I'm not sure. She reads a lot of history books.
ANDY This is really good, A Short History of the World. I read it a few months ago.
HARRY No, I think she's already read that. She didn't like it. No, I'm going to get her this one, A History of Amazing Buildings.

Two days later, Andy sees Lucy in the street ...

ANDY — Hi Lucy. I met your brother a few days ago — he said it was my / your /her birthday tomorrow / the previous day / yesterday.

LUCY Yes, that's right. Where did you meet him?

ANDY In the bookshop. When I asked him what he was doing here / there / near, he said he was / he's / I'm looking for a present for me / you / her.

LUCY Really?

ANDY Yes.I asked him what books you liked / do you like / does she like, and he said he wasn't sure. He said she reads / you read / I read history books. So I showed him A Short History of the World — I said it was really good. I told him you've / I've /I'd read it a few months earlier / ago / later. But he said you'd / she's / I'd already read it, and you hadn't liked it.

LUCY What? I thought it was brilliant**!**

ANDY Yeah. Anyway, he said I'm /he's / he was going to get A History of Amazing Buildings.

LUCY Yes - and he did. It's really cool.

ANDY — Great - I knew you'd love it / she'll love that / you'll love that.

LIVEWORKSHEETS