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## Reported Speech

## 10 Fill in the gaps with a verb from the list below in the simple past.

• advise

• ask

• suggest

• beg

• order

- 1 "Open the door, please," she said to William.  
She ..... *asked* ..... William to open the door.
- 2 "Let's go to the shopping centre," Sarah said.  
Sarah ..... going to the shopping centre.
- 3 "Please, please don't tell Lisa about her surprise birthday party," he said to me.  
He ..... me not to tell Lisa about her surprise birthday party.

- 4 "Get out of the car," Josh said to the man.  
Josh ..... the man to get out of his car.
- 5 "You should always lock the door at night," his father told him.  
His father ..... him to lock the door at night.

## Modals in Reported Speech

- The forms of some modal verbs change in Reported Speech when the reported sentence is out of date. Will/Shall → **would**, can → **could/would/be able to**, may → **might/could**, shall → **should** (asking for advice) or **would** (asking for information) / (expressing offers), must → **must/had to** (obligation) (\*must remains the same when it expresses possibility or deduction), needn't → **didn't need to/didn't have to/wouldn't have to**.
- Would, could, used to, mustn't, should, might, ought to** and **had better** remain the same.

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
He said, "I'll see you later."	He said (that) he <b>would</b> see me later.
He said, "I <b>can</b> lift heavy weights."	He said (that) he <b>could</b> lift heavy weights.
He said, "I <b>can</b> do it tomorrow."	He said (that) he <b>would be able to</b> do it the next day.
He said, "I <b>may</b> see John."	He said (that) he <b>might</b> see John.
He said, "How <b>shall</b> I repair the tap?"	He asked how he <b>should</b> repair the tap. (advice)
He said, "When <b>shall</b> we arrive?"	He asked when they <b>would</b> arrive. (information)
He said, "Shall I clean it?"	He <b>offered</b> to clean it. (expressing offers)
He said, "You <b>must</b> return it soon."	He said (that) I <b>must/had to</b> return it soon. (obligation)
He said, "She <b>must</b> be clever."	He said (that) she <b>must</b> be clever. (deduction)
He said, "You <b>should</b> work more."	He said (that) I <b>should</b> work more.
He said, "You <b>had better</b> help me."	He said (that) I <b>had better</b> help him.
He said, "You <b>needn't</b> do it now."	He said (that) I <b>didn't need to/didn't have to</b> do it then.
He said, "You <b>needn't</b> come tomorrow."	He said (that) I <b>wouldn't have to</b> go the next day.

## 11 Turn the following into reported speech.

- 1 "You must hand in your essays tomorrow," the teacher said to the students.  
*The teacher told the students (that) they must/had to hand in their essays the next day.*
- 2 "I may visit Brenda tonight," George said.  
.....
- 3 "You should always throw your rubbish in the bin," the teacher told us.  
.....
- 4 "I'll call you later," he said to her.  
.....
- 5 "We can meet next Monday," she said to him.  
.....

## 12 Underline the correct item. Then write the speaker's exact words.

- 1 A: Is Frank playing basketball tomorrow?  
 B: No. He said he **will play** / **would play** basketball the next weekend instead.  
 "I will play basketball next weekend instead."
- 2 A: Have you seen Liam?  
 B: Yes. He said he **went** / **was going** to the supermarket.
- 3 A: Tom is really working hard these days.  
 B: Yes. He told me he **have to** / **has to** finish his report by Friday.

- 4 A: Did Bob watch the late film with you?  
 B: No, he said he **has to** / **had to** go for a job interview the next morning.
- 5 A: Why isn't Karen in today?  
 B: She's still in bed. She said she **has** / **had** a stomachache.
- 6 A: Did Tim send you a postcard from Spain?  
 B: Yes. He told me he **has** / **was having** a great time over there.

## 13 The following people witnessed a car accident. Read what they said, then report their words, as in the example.



Claire

1 *It happened very suddenly. We were lucky that no one got hurt.*



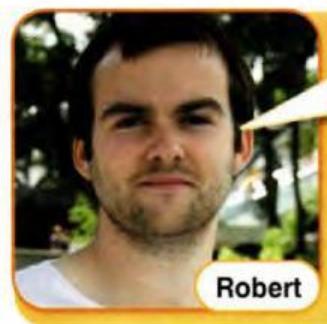
Ann

3 *I was reading a newspaper in a café when I heard a loud crash. When I went outside, I saw that a car had driven into a shop window.*

2 *I saw the accident from inside a shop across the street. I was very shocked. I'm a nurse, so I ran outside to help.*



Lisa



Robert

4 *I couldn't move. I watched as the car lost control on the icy road.*

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## Reported Speech

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Turn the sentences into *reported speech*. In which of the sentences do the tenses remain the same? Why?

1 The recipe says, "The oven needs to be heated before use."

*The recipe says (that) the oven needs to be heated before use.*

*The tenses do not change, because the introductory verb is in the present simple.*

2 "When you freeze water, you get ice," the Science teacher said.

3 "I should have given her a birthday present," Ian said.

4 "The museum is still open," Alan says.

5 "I'll arrive home in half an hour," she said.

#### Reporting a dialogue or a conversation

In conversations or dialogues we use a mixture of statements, commands and questions. When we report dialogues or conversations, we use: **and, as, adding that, and he/she added that, explaining that, because, but, since, so, and then he/she went on to say, while, then, etc.** or the introductory verb in the present participle form. Exclamations such as: **Oh!, Oh dear!, Well!** etc. are omitted in reported speech.

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
"Oh, that is a very nice sweater!" she said. "Where did you buy it?"	<i>She remarked/exclaimed that it was a very nice sweater and she asked where I had bought it. ("Oh" is omitted)</i>
"It is too difficult for you," she said. "Shall I help you?"	<i>She said it was too difficult for me, offering to help.</i>
"Why don't you come over for dinner on Friday?" she said. "We could discuss it then."	<i>She invited me to dinner on Friday, suggesting that we could discuss it then.</i>

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Rewrite the following conversation in *reported speech*.

"How can I lose weight?" Alan said.

"You mustn't eat sweets or oily food. You can eat potatoes, though. You should also get plenty of exercise," said the doctor.

"Shall I join a gym?" said Alan.

"You needn't join a gym. You can go jogging every day," said the doctor.

*Alan asked the doctor how he could lose weight.*