43 Reported speech

The words that people say are called direct speech. Reported speech is often used to describe what someone said at an earlier point in time.

43.1 MATCH THE DIRECT SPEECH SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT REPORTED SPEECH

	You look very happy today!	She said her husband was from Alabama.
1	I want to come to the park with you.	He told me I looked very happy today.
2	My husband is from Alabama.	She told me that she was a lawyer.
3	It is extremely hot in Adelaide.	Our boss told us we had to work harder.
4	I'm a lawyer.	Emilia said she wanted to come to the park with us.
5	I want to quit school.	They told me they owned a villa in Spain.
6	You have to work harder.	He said it was extremely hot in Adelaide.
7	We own a villa in Spain.	My son said he wanted to quit school.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

43.2 MARK THE SENTENCES THAT ARE CORRECT



They said that there was a big carnival today. ☑
They said me that there was a big carnival today. ☐

1 

She told me she was a Canadian citizen. ☐
She said me she was a Canadian citizen. ☐

2 

Rob said me he had won a huge amount of money. ☐
Rob said he had won a huge amount of money. ☐

3 

Ella said that Phil's 18th birthday party was great fun. ☐
Ella told that Phil's 18th birthday party was great fun. ☐

4 

Ted told me he went backpacking around Europe last year. ☐
Ted told he went backpacking around Europe last year. ☐

43.3 REWRITE THE SENTENCES USING REPORTED SPEECH, PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE PAST SIMPLE

I want to buy a new basketball.
He told (tell) me that he wanted (want) to buy a new basketball.

1 I travel around the world a lot for work.

She _____ (say) that she _____ (travel) around the world a lot for work.

2 My new boyfriend is from Ethiopia.

She _____ (tell) me that her new boyfriend _____ (be) from Ethiopia.

3 I live in Milan with my family.

Silvio _____ (tell) Maria that he _____ (live) in Milan with his family.

4 I feel sick, so I'm going home.

Mike _____ (say) that he _____ (feel) sick, so he went home.

5 My brother works in a travel agency.

She _____ (tell) me that her brother _____ (work) in a travel agency.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

44 Tenses in reported speech

In reported speech, the reported verb usually "goes back" a tense. Time and place references and pronouns sometimes also change.

44.1 MARK THE BEST REPORTED SPEECH EQUIVALENT TO EACH DIRECT SPEECH SENTENCE

It is raining very heavily.

- **Shaun said it rained very heavily.** ☐
- **Shaun said it was raining very heavily.** ☑

1 I'll give you a call later tonight.

- **Jan said she would give me a call later that evening.** ☐
- **Jan said she gave me a call later that evening.** ☐

2 I'm seeing my grandma later today.

- **Benedict said he saw his grandma later that day.** ☐
- **Benedict said he was seeing his grandma later that day.** ☐

3 I arrived at the hotel hours ago.

- **George told me he'd arrived at the hotel hours earlier.** ☐
- **George told me he would arrive at the hotel hours later.** ☐

4 We're going to the movies to see the new thriller.

- **Matt and Mabel said they had gone to the movies to see a thriller.** ☐
- **Matt and Mabel said they were going to the movies to see a thriller.** ☐

5 I can't afford to come on vacation with you this summer.

- **Danny said he didn't afford to come on vacation with us this summer.** ☐
- **Danny said he couldn't afford to come on vacation with us this summer.** ☐

6 Your new dress looks great.

- **Gemma told me that my new dress looked great.** ☐
- **Gemma told me that my new dress had looked great.** ☐

7 I'll give the camera back to you tomorrow.

- **Katie said she had given the camera back to me the next day.** ☐
- **Katie said she'd give the camera back to me the next day.** ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

44.2 MATCH THE PICTURES TO THE CORRECT SENTENCES



1 

2 

3 

Malcolm told Mel that he works in a salon.

George and Tamsin told me they go on vacation a lot.

Archie told me that his car had broken down.

Betty said she'd seen a wolf in the woods last year.

44.3 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

Christopher told me that he **will** call me yesterday.
Christopher told me that he would call me yesterday.



1. Cath told me she **has** posted the letter a few days ago.



2. The weather forecast said it **is** going to be sunny yesterday.



3. Angela told me she **was** already mowed the lawn.



4. Miles told us that the company **is** losing money before it went bankrupt.



5. In February, Lisa told me that she **has** had a great idea for a vacation.



6. Emil said he **will** visit me in Japan that summer.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

44.4 MATCH THE DIRECT SPEECH SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT REPORTED SPEECH

	An engineer will come to your house tomorrow.	The shop assistant told me they didn't have a shirt in my size.
1	We're going to the zoo on Thursday.	They told me an engineer would come to my house the following day.
2	We don't have a shirt in your size, sorry.	The manager said the hotel was fully booked in July.
3	I don't want to go to the party tonight.	Harry told me they were going to the zoo on Thursday.
4	I'm afraid the hotel's fully booked in July.	Michelle said she didn't want to go to the party last night.
5	I worked on a farm when I was a student.	Billy's mom said he would pass all his exams.
6	Billy will pass all his exams this summer.	She said that she lives in a house near the bus station.
7	I'm writing a novel set in Ancient Rome.	Jenny told me that she'd worked on a farm when she was a student.
8	I live in a house near the bus station.	Carlo said he was going to buy a new car that afternoon.
9	I'm going to buy a new car this afternoon.	Robert told me he was writing a novel set in Ancient Rome.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

45 Reporting verbs

In reported speech, "said" can be replaced with a wide variety of verbs that give people more information about how someone said something.

45.1 FILL IN THE GAPS, PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

she | that | admitted

Katrina *admitted* *that* *she* didn't understand the question.

me | buy | to | reminded

1 Don _____ _____ _____ _____ some milk on the way home.

study | me | encouraged | to

2 My parents _____ _____ _____ _____ medicine in college.

be | explained | would | that | she

3 Tina's sister _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ late to the recital.

45.2 MATCH THE PICTURES TO THE CORRECT SENTENCES









Wayne admitted that it was the first time he'd made pancakes.

The customers explained that they had booked a room online.

Sergio asked me to marry him while we were on vacation.

Archie's boss threatened to fire him if he didn't work harder.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

46 Reported speech with negatives

Negatives in reported speech are formed in the same way as negatives in direct speech. "Not" is used with the auxiliary, or with the main verb if there is no auxiliary.

46.1 MATCH THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT ENDINGS

	The weather report advised people	not to draw on the walls.
1	Pedro explained that he	not to forget my passport.
2	Paul's mom told him	not to travel during the storm.
3	Monika reminded me	didn't work on Fridays.
4	I said that I didn't want	come because I was feeling ill.
5	I told my brother I couldn't	to drive to the restaurant.

46.2 MARK THE SENTENCES THAT ARE CORRECT



My husband reminded me to don't be late for dinner. ☐
My husband reminded me not to be late for dinner. ☑

1 

My colleague mentioned that the printer wasn't working. ☐
My colleague mentioned that the printer not working. ☐

2 

Mark explained me that he didn't like dogs. ☐
Mark explained that he didn't like dogs. ☐

3 

Myra phoned to say that she not to come to the meeting. ☐
Myra phoned to say that she wasn't coming to the meeting. ☐

4 

Jon tried to persuade me not to eat any more cake. ☐
Jon tried to persuade me not eating any more cake. ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

47 Reported questions

Reported questions are used to describe questions that someone has asked. Direct questions and reported questions use different word orders.

47.1 MATCH THE PICTURES TO THE CORRECT SENTENCES



Dave asked if I'd like to go fishing with him.

1 

Megan asked Simon if it was raining in Belfast too.

2 

The artist asked us what we thought of his painting.

3 

Georges asked me if I'd ever been to Paris.

4 

My stylist asked me what I wanted.

5 

Jon asked me why I was dressed as a clown.

6 

The waiter asked me what I wanted to drink.

7 

Mom asked if I'd done the dishes yet.

47.2 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

Rick asked me **where I do work.**
Rick asked me where I work.

1. He asked me **where do you live.**
2. Sue asked me **what did I think.**
3. Amy asked us **should she bring something.**
4. Paul asked **why did I leave.**
5. They asked me **where had I been.**
6. The girl asked me **where is the station.**
7. She asked **where was the exit.**
8. Mia asked me **do I own a car.**
9. They asked me **who is he.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

47.3 FILL IN THE GAPS, PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

me | what | asked

The officer *asked* *me* *what* my name was.

to | coming | were | if | you | the

1 Peter asked _____ performance later.

to | I'd | if | decided | me | asked

2 My teacher _____ study math in college.

I | to | me | go | where | wanted

3 Lou asked _____ on Saturday.

if | order | we | wanted | to | asked

4 The waiter _____ more drinks.

time | me | we | usually | what | have

5 Susan asked _____ our lunch break.

wanted | go | if | to | I | the | to

6 She asked me _____ movies with her.

kids | wanted | her | they | if | mint | or

7 Claire asked _____ strawberry ice cream.

we | lived | how | had | in | long

8 Fran asked _____ San Francisco.

help | could | him | I | house | whether | move

9 Pete asked _____ this weekend.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

47.4 REWRITE THE SENTENCES USING REPORTED SPEECH, PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE CORRECT TENSES

Are you studying physics or chemistry here?
He asked me whether I *was studying* (study) physics or chemistry there.

1. Can I borrow your T-shirt?

   Paul asked if he _____ (can) borrow my T-shirt.

2. Is it raining where you are?

   Danny wanted to know if it _____ (rain) here.

3. Is Tim coming to the lecture later today?

   Hiroshi asked whether you _____ (come) to the lecture later today.

4. Will you post this letter for me?

   Shona asked me if I _____ (post) this letter for her.

5. How long have you been knitting for, Grandma?

   My granddaughter asked me how long I _____ (knit) for.

6. Where is Silvio living at the moment?

   Antonia asked me where you _____ (live) at the moment.

7. Who is the singer in this band?

   Greg asked me who the singer _____ (be) in the band we saw last night.

8. Do you know when you are going to finish the block?

   I asked the architect if he knew when they _____ (finish) the block.

9. Who won the marathon today?

   Ella asked me who _____ (win) the marathon yesterday.

10. Do you believe in ghosts, Mom?

    My children asked me today if I _____ (believe) in ghosts.

11. Who directed the new comedy?

    Patsy wanted to know who _____ (direct) the new comedy.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

48 Reported speech review

When forming reported speech from direct speech, some words change in order to keep the meaning consistent. Other words stay the same.

48.1 MATCH THE DIRECT SPEECH SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT REPORTED SPEECH

	I am moving house next week.	Les told me Christine had paid for lunch the week before.
1	I really miss my friends and family.	Sanjay told me that he was moving house the following week.
2	Christine paid for lunch last week.	Jiya once told me she'd be a famous singer by 2015.
3	I really don't want to work this Saturday.	Steph told me that she really missed her friends and family.
4	My daughter dreams of becoming an actor.	Angela tells me she's never been to the Tower of London.
5	I'll be a famous singer by 2015.	Rohan tells me he really doesn't want to work this Saturday.
6	We're going to the theater tomorrow.	Mia told Dan that her daughter dreamed of becoming an actor.
7	I've never been to the Tower of London.	Lou told me they were going to the theater the following day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

48.2 MARK THE SENTENCES THAT ARE CORRECT



Fiona said me her son had done well in his exams. ☐
Fiona said her son had done well in his exams. ☑

1 

Ruth explained why the results were so bad. ☐
Ruth explained why were the results so bad. ☐

2 

Phil said he'll finish the garden last Wednesday. ☐
Phil said he'd finish the garden last Wednesday. ☐

3 

Carla asked whether she could leave the office early. ☐
Carla asked whether could she leave the office early. ☐

4 

Liam told me he had visited Paris the previous year. ☐
Liam told me he has visited Paris the previous year. ☐

5 

Ken asked Katie did she want to dance with him. ☐
Ken asked Katie if she wanted to dance with him. ☐

48.3 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

vacation | they | year. | on | They | next | might | said | go

They said they might go on vacation next year.

1 for | she | her | Karen | going | me | Vietnam | told | was | honeymoon. | to

2 officer | a | was | police | when | a | wanted | he | kid. | Mike | be | to | said | he

3 she | mentioned | has | ticket. | Sophia | a | that | spare

LIVEWORKSHEETS