

# 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.



### 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.

# 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.

☐



## 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.





#### 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.

# 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

Katrina admitted that she didn't understand the question.

1 Don me buy to reminded some milk on the way home.

2 My parents study me encouraged to medicine in college.

3 Tina's sister be explained would that she 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.

# 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.       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|   | My husband reminded me not to be late for dinner.         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1 | My colleague mentioned that the printer wasn't working.   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|   | My colleague mentioned that the printer not working.      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2 | Mark explained me that he didn't like dogs.               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|   | Mark explained that he didn't like dogs.                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3 | Myra phoned to say that she not to come to the meeting.   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|   | Myra phoned to say that she wasn't coming to the meeting. | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4 | Jon tried to persuade me not to eat any more cake.        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|   | Jon tried to persuade me not eating any more cake.        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

# 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.



Megan asked Simon if it was raining in Belfast too.



The artist asked us what we thought of his painting.



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



My stylist asked me what I wanted.



Jon asked me why I was dressed as a clown.



The waiter asked me what I wanted to drink.



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**.



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

The officer asked me what my name was.

1 Peter asked to coming were if you the performance later.

2 My teacher to I'd if decided me asked study math in college.

3 Lou asked I to me go where wanted on Saturday.

4 The waiter if order we wanted to asked more drinks.

5 Susan asked time me we usually what have our lunch break.

6 She asked me wanted go if to I the to movies with her.

7 Claire asked kids wanted her they if mint or strawberry ice cream.

8 Fran asked we lived how had in long San Francisco.

9 Pete asked help could him I house whether move this weekend.



#### 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.

# 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.



## 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