

# Unit 7

## > Reported Speech – Statements and Questions

### RULES

- 1 In reported statements and questions, we move the verb one tense back when the reporting verb is in the past.

*“I’m sure we will lose,” said Beth.*

*Beth said that she was sure they would lose.*

- 2 In reported statements, we often add the word **that**.

*“She’s won the award three times,” announced the reporter.*

*The reporter announced that she had won the award three times.*

- 3 In reported statements and questions, we usually change personal pronouns, time and place expressions and demonstrative and possessive adjectives and pronouns.

*“I’m going to watch the game with my friends tomorrow,” said Paul.*

*Paul mentioned that he was going to watch the game with his friends the following day.*

- 4 In Yes / No and Wh- questions, the reported question is transformed into an affirmative sentence, so there is no subject-verb inversion.

*“What equipment do you need?” asked my coach.*

*My coach wanted to know what equipment I needed.*

- 5 In Yes / No questions, we begin the reported question with the words **if** or **whether**.

*“Will the All Blacks win the rugby tournament?” asked Ethan.*

*Ethan asked if / whether the All Blacks would win the rugby tournament.*

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## 1 Choose the correct answer.

- “We have never had a rugby team like this one.”  
I told my friends that we **have never had** / **had never had** a rugby team like **that** / **this** one.
- “Where did you put the trophy last night?”  
The captain asked us where we **put** / **had put** the trophy the **following** / **previous** night.
- “Our team is going to beat the visitors this Saturday.”  
I told the reporter that our team **would beat** / **was going to beat** the visitors **that** / **this** Saturday.
- “Will it rain this afternoon?”  
We wanted to know whether it **would rain** / **will rain** **this** / **that** afternoon.
- “Do you think you could help us?”  
Tammy asked me if I **thought** / **think** I could help her / them.

## > Orders, Requests and Suggestions

- 1 In reported orders and requests, we use the infinitive with **to**.

*“Run around the track,” ordered the coach.*

*The coach ordered the players to run around the track.*

- 2 In negative reported orders, we use **not + infinitive with to**.

*“Don’t touch the trophy,” warned the captain.*

*The captain warned the players not to touch the trophy.*

- 3 In reported suggestions, the reporting verb can be followed by a gerund or **that + subject + base form**.

*“Let’s watch the match,” suggested Grace.*

*Grace suggested watching / that we watch the match.*

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## 2 Complete the following orders, requests and suggestions in reported speech.

- “Run faster!”  
The coach told him .... faster.
- “Bring your football.”  
She told me .... my football.
- “You shouldn’t eat before the game.”  
The doctor told us .... before the game.
- “Let’s play basketball.”  
Our teacher suggested that .... basketball.
- “Can you train me?”  
Luke asked .... him.



## 3 Complete the sentences in reported speech.

- “We’re planning to go on holiday next June.”  
Jack stated that .... .
- “Did you get tickets for the tennis tournament?”  
Henry asked us .... .
- “Be on the playing field at 8.30 sharp!”  
The coach ordered us .... .
- “Owen, how are you coping at your new school?”  
Dan wanted to know .... .
- “Can you bring the equipment tomorrow?”  
Gail asked if .... .
- “Let’s watch athletics on TV tonight.”  
Simon suggested .... .
- “I ate a healthy lunch.”  
Beth said that .... .