

Reported (Indirect) Speech

- ❖ Anna said: "I am hungry".

In **Direct Speech**, we repeat the exact words that someone said. We usually use quotation marks for the words of the speaker.

- ❖ Anna said (that) she was hungry.

In **Reported Speech**, we narrate the meaning of what someone said, without using their exact words.

To report something, we apply **3 STEPS**:

- 1) get rid of MARKS: use a reporting verb (like *say* or *tell*), followed by *that* (which can be omitted).
- 2) Backshift the TENSE: the verb is further in the past than when we initially said the sentence
- 3) change the pronouns (he, she, I, etc) and the ADVERBS (now, today, etc)

- ❖ When **the reporting verb is in Past Tense**, we must make some **changes to the tenses** of the verbs. We call this a "**backshift**" - the tenses all move one step backwards, to the past.

Complete the reporting sentence using the indicated tense.

Present Simple	Past Simple
Anna: "I <u>want</u> a new phone"	Anna said she <u>wanted</u> a new phone.
Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Anna: "I'm <u>doing</u> my homework".	Anna said she <u>was doing</u> her homework.
Past Simple	Past Perfect Simple
Anna: "I <u>bought</u> a new car"	Anna told us she had <u> </u> a new car.

Present Perfect Simple	Past Perfect Simple/ Past Simple
Anna: "I <u>have been</u> to London"	Anna said she went/ had been <u> </u> London.
Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
Anna: "I <u>have been waiting</u> for an hour"	Anna told me she had <u> </u> waiting for an hour.
Will	Would
Anna: "I <u>will</u> call later"	Anna promised she would call later.
Can	Could
Anna: "I <u>can</u> speak Chinese"	Anna said she <u> </u> speak Chinese.
May	Might
Anna: "I <u>may</u> be late"	Anna told me she might be late.
Must	Had to
Anna: "I <u>must</u> do my homework"	Anna remembered she had to do <u> </u> homework.

❖ There are also other changes:

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
now	<i>then</i>
today	<u> </u> day
yesterday	the <u> </u> before/ the previous day
tomorrow	the day after/ the <u> </u> day
ago	before
last week	the week <u> </u>
next week	the next week
<u> </u> / these	that/those

Reporting Commands and requests

❖ Report the following commands:

1. "Stop the car!" the police officer said to the driver.

The police officer ordered the driver stop the car.

2. "Don't tell anyone, please!" Laura said.

Laura asked me to tell anyone.

Reporting Questions

Golden rule: Reported questions follow **the word order of affirmative sentences** (subject + verb; the auxiliary is no longer needed before the subject).

❖ Read the rule and report the following question:

If the direct question begins with a question word, **the reported question also begins with the same question word.**

1. "Why are we here?" the little boy asked.

The little boy wanted to know they were there.

❖ Read the rule and report the following question:

If the direct question does not begin with a question word, **the reported question begins with if or whether.**

2. "Do you like reading?" the teacher asked.

The teacher wondered if he reading.