

# REPORTED SPEECH

we report an utterance made by someone but without quoting the exact words used

## REPORTED STATEMENTS

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We use the verbs **SAY, TELL, CLAIM, INFORM, MENTION, STATE** to introduce a reported statement. Changes affect to verb tenses which give one step back in time, demonstratives, pronouns, possessives and time and place adverbs.



DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH	Pronouns and possessives change from FIRST or SECOND person to THIRD person
PRESENT SIMPLE	PAST SIMPLE	
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	PAST CONTINUOUS	- THIS → THAT - THESE → THOSE - TODAY → THAT DAY - YESTERDAY → THE DAY BEFORE - TOMORROW → THE FOLLOWING/NEXT DAY - NOW → THEN - HERE → THERE - NEXT YEAR → THE FOLLOWING YEAR
PAST SIMPLE	PAST PERFECT	
PAST CONTINUOUS	PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS	
PRESENT PERFECT	PAST PERFECT	
PAST PERFECT	PAST PERFECT	
CAN, MAY	COULD, MIGHT	
WOULD, COULD, MIGHT, SHOULD	WOULD, COULD, MIGHT, SHOULD	
MUST	MUST/ HAD TO	

## REPORTED QUESTIONS

We use the verbs **ASK, WONDER, WANT TO KNOW** to introduce a reported question.

-When we report **YES/NO QUESTIONS**, we use **IF/WHETHER + SUBJECT + VERB**  
 "Did you eat pizza yesterday?" Ann told Peter → Ann asked Peter if he had eaten pizza the day before

-When we report **WH-QUESTIONS**, we use the **QUESTION WORD + SUBJECT + VERB**  
 "Why are you crying now?" She said to me → She wanted to know why I had been crying then



## REPORTED ORDERS AND COMMANDS

We use the verbs **ASK, ORDER, TELL, BEG, WARN** or **ADVISE** to introduce a reported order or command. These verbs are always followed by an **OBLIGATORY OBJECT**. Also, the **imperative becomes an infinitive**.

"Be careful". He said → He asked **ME TO BE** careful

"Don't worry". The doctor said to us → The doctor ordered **US NOT TO WORRY**

## REPORTED SUGGESTIONS

We use the verbs **SUGGEST** or **RECOMMEND** to introduce a suggestion in reported speech. These verbs are followed by a **gerund** or a **that clause**.

"Why don't we go out to eat something?", John said.

-John suggested **going out** to eat something

- John suggested **that we should go out** to eat something

-John suggested **that we went out** to eat something.

### HOW TO EXPRESS SUGGESTIONS

"Let's stay at home and see a film."

"Why don't we go shopping on Saturday?"

"How about playing football tomorrow?"

"What about visiting your family?"

"I think we should go bowling."

**Turn the following sentences into reported speech:**

1.- "Are you leaving for Scotland now?" She asked me.

She asked me     for Scotland

2.- "I lost all my money by buying bitcoins," he said.

He said that       by buying bitcoins

3.- "It was wonderful to meet them last night!"

Susan exclaimed that

4.- "Can Africa be saved?", the journalist asked.

The journalist asked

5.- "How can I get to the airport?" The man asked me.

The man asked me

6.- Experts advised us: "Don't open any emails from unknown senders."

Experts advised us

7.- "Did they flow to Norway yesterday?" Susan asked me.

Susan asked me

8.- The doctor asked me: "Is there anything in your past that you regret?"

The doctor asked me

9.- BBC news reported: "The government will release all the UFO files that have been secret for a long time." BBC news reported that

10.- "They will find a vaccine against COVID-19 next year," The reporter claimed.

The reporter claimed that

**Turn the following sentences into direct speech:**

1.- She asked me If I could start work the following day.

She asked : "  ? "

2.- He told me not to wait for him there.

He told me: "  . "

3.- She asked how much they had paid for that new computer.

She asked: "  ? "

4.- John suggested that we went for walk around the river.

John suggested: "How  ? "

5.- Ann asked Peter if he had eaten pizza the day before

Ann asked: "  ? "