

Reported speech

When we report that someone said, we usually change the tense.

I'm going to cycle along the River Rhine'.

He said (that) **he was going to cycle** along the River Rhine.

'I spent a month in Australia'.

He said (that) **he had spent** a month in Australia.

We can use the verbs say and tell to report what someone said. We use tell if we want specify who the person was talking to.

Danielle **said** that the plane was late.

Danielle **told her brother / him** that the plane was late.

Personal pronouns, possessive adjectives and time expressions often change.

'I saw your brother in Paris last week'

She said that **she** had seen **my** brother in Paris **the previous week**.

Reporting orders, request & advice

We use ask, tell and advise + object + to + infinitive when we report orders, instructions, request or advice.

'Hurry up!'

He **told me to** hurry up.

'Can yo help me?'

He **asked me to help** him.

'You ought to learn some Portuguese'.

She **advised me to learn** some Portuguese.

We use not + to in the negative.

jYou mustn't swim out too far'.

She **told / advised me not to swim** out too far.

Reported questions

When we report yes / no questions, we use if or whether, and the word order is like a statement.

Josh : 'Is she Australian?'

Josh asked (me) if she was Australian.

NOT ... if was she Australian.

We don't use the auxiliary verbs do / did in reported questions.

Sandro : Do you live in the centre?

Sandro asked (me) if I lived in the centre.

NOT ... if i did live in the centre.

For wh - questions, we put the question word (usually beginning with wh -) before the subject.

Danny : 'Who are you going with?'

Danny asked (me) who I was going with.

Emily : 'Why did you go there?'

Emily asked (me) why I had gone there.