

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 to 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.

'You 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.