

Reported Speech

Do you know how to report what somebody else said?

Reported speech is when we tell someone what another person said. To do this, we can use direct speech or indirect speech.

direct speech: *'I work in a bank,' said Daniel.*

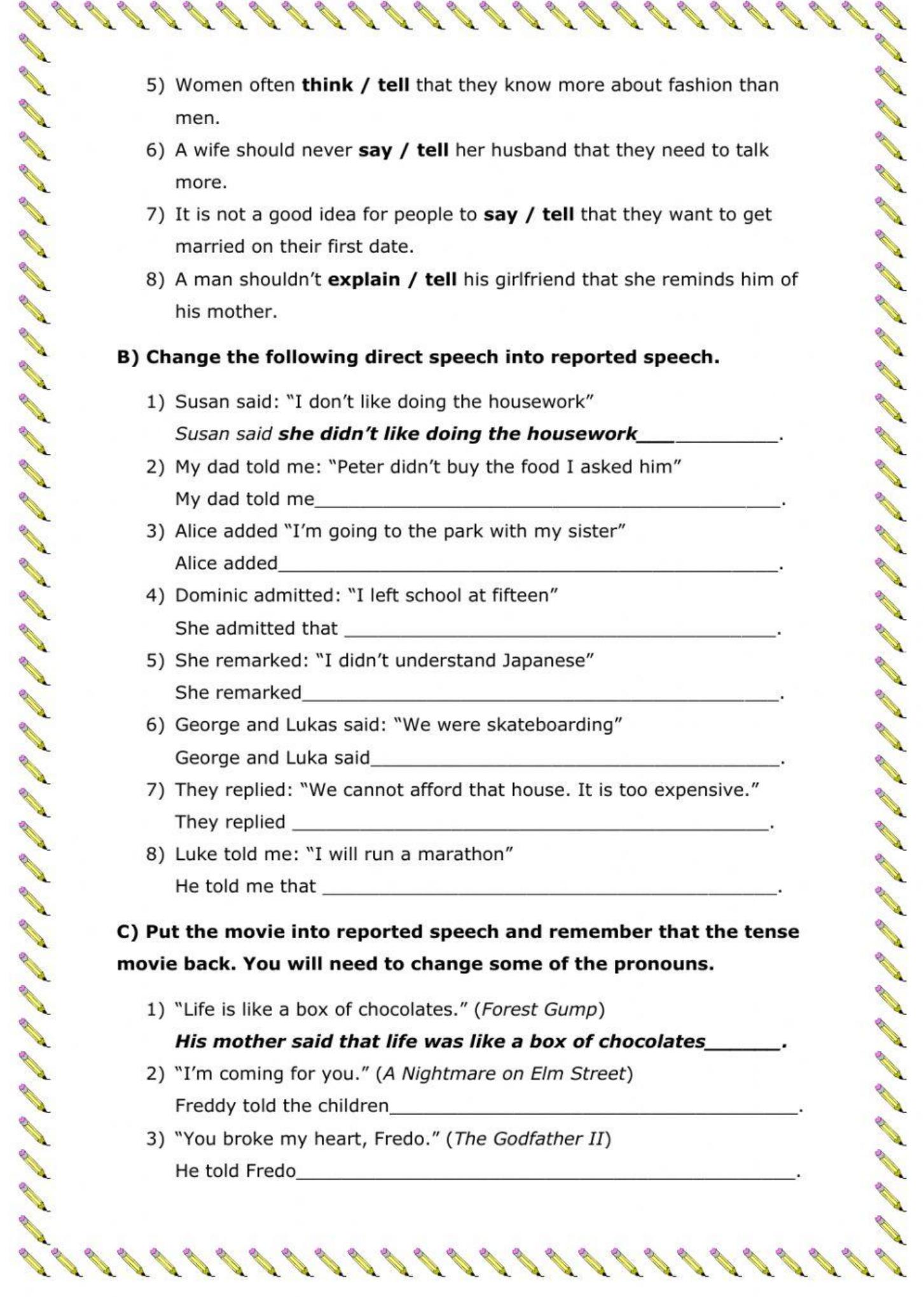
indirect speech: *Daniel said that he worked in a bank.*

In indirect speech, we often use a tense which is 'further back' in the past (e.g. *worked*) than the tense originally used (e.g. *work*). This is called 'backshift'. We also may need to change other words that were used, for example pronouns.

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Present Simple She always wears a coat. →	Past Simple He said (that) she always wore a coat. 
Present Continuous I'm looking for my keys. →	Past Continuous She said (that) she was looking for her keys.
Present Perfect She has written three letters for her friend. →	Past Perfect He said (that) she had written three letters for her friend.
Past Simple My friend gave me a bar of chocolate. →	Past Perfect He said (that) his friend had given him a bar of chocolate.
WILL I will finish my report in two days. →	WOULD He said (that) he would finish his report in two days.
CAN I can speak English. →	COULD She said (that) she could speak English.
MAY I may invite them to dinner. →	MIGHT She said (that) she might invite them to the dinner.
MUST I must go to the bank and get some money. →	HAD TO She said (that) she had to go to the bank and get some money.
HAVE TO I have to submit this assignment by 3 pm tomorrow. →	HAD TO She said (that) she had to submit this assignment by 3 pm tomorrow.

A) Underline the correct alternatives.

- 1) Men in cars never **admit / tell** that they are lost.
- 2) It is more common for women than for men to **claim / tell** that they are younger than they are.
- 3) Men often **suggest / tell** their wives that they have to work late when they want to go out with their friends.
- 4) When a woman asks a man what he thinks of her clothes, he should **reply / tell** very carefully.

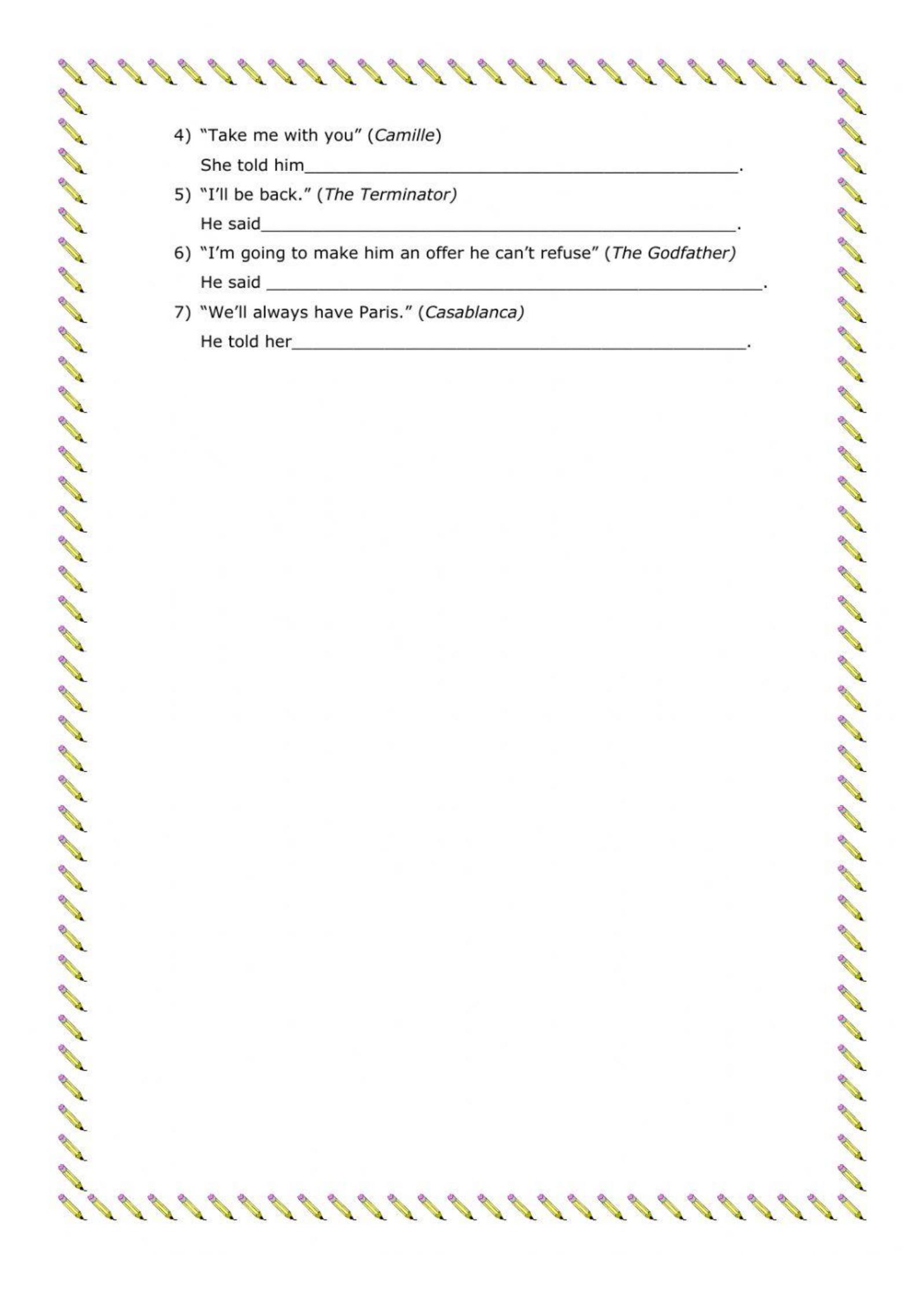
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- 5) Women often **think / tell** that they know more about fashion than men.
 - 6) A wife should never **say / tell** her husband that they need to talk more.
 - 7) It is not a good idea for people to **say / tell** that they want to get married on their first date.
 - 8) A man shouldn't **explain / tell** his girlfriend that she reminds him of his mother.

B) Change the following direct speech into reported speech.

- 1) Susan said: "I don't like doing the housework"
Susan said **she didn't like doing the housework**_____.
- 2) My dad told me: "Peter didn't buy the food I asked him"
My dad told me_____.
- 3) Alice added "I'm going to the park with my sister"
Alice added_____.
- 4) Dominic admitted: "I left school at fifteen"
She admitted that _____.
- 5) She remarked: "I didn't understand Japanese"
She remarked_____.
- 6) George and Lukas said: "We were skateboarding"
George and Luka said_____.
- 7) They replied: "We cannot afford that house. It is too expensive."
They replied _____.
- 8) Luke told me: "I will run a marathon"
He told me that _____.

C) Put the movie into reported speech and remember that the tense movie back. You will need to change some of the pronouns.

- 1) "Life is like a box of chocolates." (*Forest Gump*)
His mother said that life was like a box of chocolates_____.
- 2) "I'm coming for you." (*A Nightmare on Elm Street*)
Freddy told the children_____.
- 3) "You broke my heart, Fredo." (*The Godfather II*)
He told Fredo_____.



4) "Take me with you" (*Camille*)

She told him _____.

5) "I'll be back." (*The Terminator*)

He said _____.

6) "I'm going to make him an offer he can't refuse" (*The Godfather*)

He said _____.

7) "We'll always have Paris." (*Casablanca*)

He told her _____.