

REPORTED SPEECH



(statements)

A person's actual words are usually marked by quotations. This is called **Direct Speech**

When we repeat something that someone else said we use **reported** or **indirect speech**.

Which bubble is direct speech ? _____ which is indirect speech? _____

In indirect speech pronouns verb tenses and adverbial time expressions may change especially if the speaker, time and place are not the same.

- When reporting a statement, we usually use **that**. We can leave **that** out when speaking and especially after verbs like say and think.
- Remember
 - ❖ We repeat **that** after **and**, **but** and **or**.
 - ❖ Do not use a comma before or after **and**, **but** or **or** in reported speech.
 - ❖ Do not use a comma before or after **that**!

TENSE CHANGE*

DIRECT SPEECH	→	REPORTED SPEECH
present simple	→	past simple
present continuous	→	past continuous
past simple	→	past perfect / past simple
past continuous	→	past perfect continuous
present perfect	→	past perfect
present perfect continuous	→	past perfect continuous
past perfect	→	past perfect
past perfect continuous	→	past perfect continuous
will	→	would
can	→	could
must / have to	→	must or had to
may / might	→	might
should	→	should
ought to	→	ought to

Personal pronouns- we usually change to the 3rd person (singular or plural). When the speaker reports his own words the pronoun may not change

PLACE & TIME

now	→	then
today / tonight	→	that day / that night
this morning / week	→	that morning / week
yesterday	→	the day before
tomorrow	→	the next day / the following day
next + noun	→	the following + noun
last + noun	→	the + noun before
ago	→	before
here	→	there
go	→	come

tense changes

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Present Simple	Past Simple
Sarah: 'I live in Madrid'	Sarah said (that) she didn't live in Madrid'
Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Michael: 'I'm studying Biology now'	Michael said that he was studying Biology then.
Past Continuous	Past continuous Past Perfect Continuous
'The children were saving up for a new video game,' the mother explained.	The mother explained that the children were saving up for a new video game.
Past Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
'The students had been taking notes in the conference,' the teacher said.	The teacher said that the students had been taking notes in the conference.
Past Simple Present Perfect Past Perfect	Past Perfect
'I have never visited England,' my sister pointed out.	My sister pointed out that she had never visited England.
Can May/might	Could Might
' May I come in, please?,' the student asked.	The student asked if she might come in.
Must Have to	Had to
'These bills must be paid this week,' Mary added.	Mary added that these bills had to be paid that week.
Will	Would
'The bus will leave soon,' the driver confirmed.	The driver confirmed that the bus would leave soon.
Would Could Should Ought to	Would Could Should Ought to
' Could we see Mr. Smith, please?' the man wondered.	The man wondered if they could see Mr. Smith.
Is/are going to	Was/were going to
'My mother isn't going to the supermarket today,' Jenny denied.	Jenny denied that her mother was going to the supermarket that day.

personal pronouns

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
I	He / She
You	I / We
We	They

* 3rd person no change

indirect objects

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Me	Him / Her
You	Me / Our
Us	Them

* 3rd person no change

possessive adjectives

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
My	His /
Your	My / Our
Our	Their

* 3rd person no change

demonstratives

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
This	That
These	Those
Here	There

expressions of time

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Today	That day
Tonight	That night
Tomorrow	The following day
Yesterday	The day before
Last day/week	The day/week before
Next week/year	The next week / year
Now	Then
... ago	... before

say vs. tell

* **say** - said that... Mary said that she was going to the cinema.
 * **tell** - told (object pronouns: him, her, us, them...) that...
 Mary told her mother that she was going to a party.

A. Number the sentences with the correct Reported Speech.

1. **Julia:** The policemen have already gone.
2. **Sarah:** Come here Anthony!
3. **Kate:** Mary is a liar.
4. **Sony:** Sam is coming to New York.
5. **Debra:** Sandra will buy a car.
6. **Jonh:** I can't go to the stadium.

- () She asked me to come there.
- () She said that Mary was a liar.
- () He said that he couldn't go to the stadium.
- () I heard that Sandra would buy a car.
- () She said that they had already gone.
- () I heard that he was coming to New York.

B. Look at the pictures and report what each person said



1. She / curtains. / said / was / she / making / some new
She said she was making some new curtains.
2. said / an accident / he / had / had / the day before. /He

3. for thirty years. / had / he / taught / said / He

4. graduate / they / would / They / said / next year.

5. she / was / said / a great artist. / She

6. had / some cookies. / Said / baked / she

7. soon. / was / married / she / said / he / getting

C. Write the Reported Speech using Indirect Speech.

1. **Mário:** I will fix the car.
Mario said he would fix the car
2. **Tulio:** Sarah broke the glasses.

3. **Maria:** The fire destroyed my house.

4. **Martha:** The worker is building a new house.

5. **The teacher:** You can speak in English.

6. **Richard:** I will paint your bike.
