

Grammar

Reported Speech: Questions-Commands-Requests

A Read the examples and answer the questions.

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Jack: <i>Can I have some more?</i> Mr Colridge: <i>Why do you want some more?</i>	Jack asked if/whether he could have some more. Mr Colridge asked why he wanted some more.

- What comes after *asked* when the question begins with a question word?
- What comes after *asked* when we report a Yes/No question?
- Are the verbs in reported questions in the affirmative or in the question form?

B Read the examples and complete the rule.

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Jack: <i>Please, give me some more.</i> Mr Colridge: <i>Don't ask for more!</i>	Jack asked Mr Colridge to give him some more. Mr Colridge told him not to ask for more.

The imperative changes to: **TO** + **base form** and the negative imperative (**don't**) changes to: **NOT TO** + **base form**.

C Complete the sentences using **Reported Speech**.

- 'Where have you put the keys?' Mario asked me.
Mario asked me
- 'Please show me the way to the station,' Mandy said to the woman.
Mandy asked the woman
- 'Don't eat the cake!' Kim said to Gary.
Kim told Gary
- 'Do you want some coffee?' Dave asked me.
Dave asked me
- 'Sit down at once!' Mrs. Humphrey said to the student.
Mrs. Humphrey told the student
- 'Why are you whispering?' Fred asked Tony.
Fred asked Tony

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Reported Speech: Statements

A Read the examples, answer the questions and complete the rules.

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
• 'You are a thief!' the woman said. • 'I did it by accident,' I said to the woman. • 'We can leave,' I said to my friends.	• The woman said that I was a thief. • I told the woman that I had done it by accident. • I told my friends that we could leave.

- When do we use Reported Speech?
- In the examples above, which words have changed in Reported Speech?

• *Say* and *tell* are reporting verbs. Use before an indirect object (person) and when there is no indirect object.

• Pronouns and possessive adjectives change according to the meaning of the sentence.

• Tenses, modal verbs and time expressions usually change as follows:

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH	DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Present	→	this	→ that
Past	→	today	→ that day
Present Perfect	→ Past Perfect	yesterday	→ the previous day / the day before
will	→ would	last week	→ the previous week / the week before
can	→	tomorrow	→ the next day / the following day
should	→ should	next year	→ the following year

B Complete the sentences using **Reported Speech**.

- 'I felt so embarrassed yesterday,' Lisa said to me.
Lisa told me
- 'I can give you a ride to the airport tomorrow,' Fred said to Mike.
Fred told
- 'We've never been to this restaurant before,' the girls said.
The girls said
- 'We'll go skiing together next year,' Thomas said to Paul.
Thomas told
- 'My brother washes his car once a week,' Tim said.
Tim said