

Lesson A Reported speech

A Read what Pablo says. Then complete the sentences to report what he said.

"I don't think that I'm very materialistic. I'm moving to a new apartment soon, and so I've been trying to get rid of the things I don't want. I actually think I'm very self-disciplined – I only spend money on things I really need. I mean, I've kept a few gifts that I've never used. You know, things that close friends gave to me. And I've kept some old family photos that I can't throw away, obviously. But over the years, I've bought a lot of books, and I'll probably give most of them away."

1. Pablo said that he didn't think that he _____ very materialistic.
2. He said he _____ to a new apartment, and so he _____ to get rid of the things he _____.
3. He said he _____ that he _____ very self-disciplined and said he only _____ money on things he really _____.
4. He said that he _____ a few gifts that he _____ – things that close friends _____ to him.
5. He said he _____ some old family photos that he _____ throw away.
6. He said that over the years, he _____ a lot of books and that he _____ probably give most of them away.

B Pair work Ask your partner, "Are you materialistic? Could you give away your possessions?" Then find another partner and report the answers.

Lesson B Reported questions

A Imagine a market researcher asked you these questions. Write the reported questions.

1. Are you saving up for anything special? *He asked me if ...*
2. How much money have you spent today?
3. What's your favorite store?
4. Could you live without your smartphone?
5. How do you keep track of your money?
6. Does your bank account pay good interest?
7. How often do you check your bank account?
8. Do you ever spend too much on things?

Note

Present continuous forms in direct speech shift back to past continuous forms in reported speech.

"I'm destroying all my things."
→ He said that he **was destroying** all his things.

Common errors

Don't use *say + me, him, them, etc.*

She said she wasn't materialistic.

(NOT ~~*She said me she wasn't materialistic.*~~)

In conversation

... asked if and *... wanted to know if* are much more frequent than *... asked whether* and *... wanted to know whether*.

Common errors

Don't use *tell* to report questions.

She asked me if I owned