Reported Speech

9

23 **Listen and repeat. Then act out.**



Direct speech is the exact words someone said. To show the direct speech we put the words said in quotation marks. *"I'll go to London,"* she said.

Reported speech is the exact meaning of what someone said but not the exact words. We do not use quotation marks in Reported speech. She said **she would go to London**.

Say – Tell

We can use say and tell both in Direct and Reported speech. Tell is always followed by a personal object (told me). Say is used with or without a personal object. When it is used with a personal object say is always followed by to *(said to me)*.

Direct speech	Reported speech
She **said**, "I can't drive." She **said to me**, "I can't drive." She **told me**, "I can't drive."	She **said (that)** she couldn't drive. She **said to me (that)** she couldn't drive. She **told me (that)** she couldn't drive.

Expressions with say	*say good morning / evening, etc. say something / nothing, say a few words, say so, etc.*
Expressions with tell	*tell the truth, tell a lie, tell sb the time, tell sb one's name, tell a story, tell a secret, tell sb the way, tell one from another, etc.*

1 Fill in: *say* of *tell* in the correct form.

1 Can you ... *tell* ... me what time the film starts?
2 She ..... she would never speak to him again.
3 I promise to ..... the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.
4 Who ..... you I wasn't going to the party?
5 Bob promised to ..... nothing about it to anyone.
6 Sometimes it's hard to ..... one twin from the other.
7 She always ..... good morning to her neighbours.
8 I couldn't believe what he ..... to me.
9 Please ..... me what happened!
10 "Go and tidy your room," she ..... to her son.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9 Reported Speech

We can report: **A statements** **B questions** **C commands, requests, suggestions**

Reported Statements

- **To report statements we use a reporting verb (say, tell, explain, etc.) followed by a *that*-clause. In spoken English *that* can be omitted.** *He said, "I feel sick." He **said (that)** he felt sick.*
- **Pronouns and possessive adjectives change according to the context.**

Direct speech	Reported speech
*He said, **"I'll** lend you my laptop."*	*He said (that) he would lend me me his laptop.*

- **Time words and tenses can change as follows depending on the time reference:**

Direct speech	Reported speech
tonight, today, this week / month / year	that night, that day, that week / month / year
now	then, at that time, at once, immediately
now that	since
yesterday, last night / week / month / year	the day before, the previous night / week / month / year
tomorrow, next week / month / year	the following day / the day after, the following / next week / month / year
two days / months / years, etc. ago	two days / months / years, etc. before

- **When the reporting verb is in the past, the verb tenses change as follows:**

Direct speech	Reported speech
present simple *"Tom **needs** a new bike," Dad said.*	**past simple** *Dad said Tom **needed** a new bike.*
present continuous *"He **is watching** TV," she said.*	**past continuous** *She said he **was watching** TV.*
present perfect *"He **has just left**," she said.*	**past perfect** *She said he **had just left**.*
past simple *"He **left** an hour ago," she said.*	**past simple or past perfect** *She said he **(had) left** an hour before.*
past continuous *"I **was surfing** the Net at two o'clock yesterday," he said.*	**past continuous or past perfect continuous** *He said he **was surfing** / **had been surfing** the Net at two o'clock the day before.*
future *"He'**ll be** back in an hour," she said.*	**conditional** *She said he **would be** back in an hour.*
present perfect continuous *"I'**ve been typing** since morning," she said.*	**past perfect continuous** *She said she **had been typing** since morning.*

- **If the direct verb is already in the past simple, in reported speech it can change into the past perfect or remain the same.**
  *"I **was** late for school," Jane said.* *Jane said she **was** / **had been** late for school.*
- **If the direct verb is in the past perfect, it remains the same in reported speech.**
  *"I **had** already **written** to him," Rob said.* *Rob said he **had** already **written** to him.*
- **Certain words change as follows depending on the context.**

Direct speech:	**this / these**	**here**	**come**	*(in his office) He said, "I'll be **here** again on Monday."*
Reported speech:	**that / those**	**there**	**go**	*(outside the office) He said he'd be **there** again on Monday.*

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- **There are no changes in the verb tenses in reported speech when the direct sentence expresses a general truth, is Type 2 or Type 3 conditional or a wish.**

*"The Earth **is** a planet," he said.*	*He said the Earth **is** a planet. (general truth)*
*"If you **studied** more, you'**d pass** your test," he said.*	*He said (that) if I **studied** more, I'**d pass** my test.*
*"I wish I **were** / **was** famous" he said.*	*He said he wished he **were** / **was** famous.*

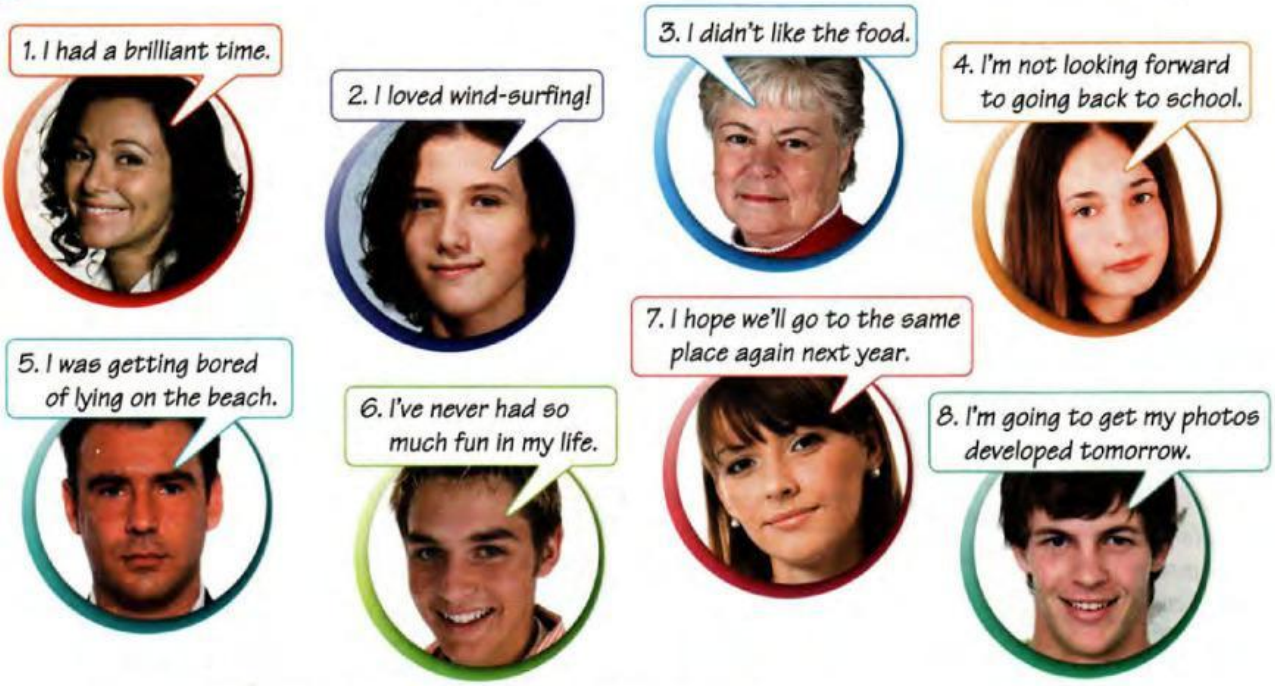
- **When the introductory verb is in the present, future or present perfect, there are no changes in the verb tenses.**

*"Nina **can** read," she **says.***	*She **says** that Nina **can** read.*

- **UP-TO-DATE REPORTING / OUT-OF-DATE REPORTING**
  The verb tenses can change or remain the same in reported speech when a sentence expresses something which is up to date or still true when we report it. The verb tenses change when something is out of date or not true when we report it.

*"I'**m travelling** to England next week," he said.*	*He said he **is travelling** / **was travelling** to England next week. (up-to-date reporting – immediately reported after said)*
*"I'**m travelling** to England in January," he said. (Now it's February.)*	*He said he **was travelling** to England in January. (The trip is over since it's February. out-of-date reporting)*
*"The Earth **is** flat," he said.*	*He said (that) the Earth **was** flat. (It isn't; not true.)*

2 **Report what the Jones family said when they came home from their holiday.**



1 Mrs Jones *said (that) she (had) had a brilliant time.*
2 Jimmy .....
3 Grandmother .....
4 Judy .....
5 Mr Jones .....
6 Paul .....
7 Tracy .....
8 Danny .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS