

Reported Speech

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

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

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

He said, "I'll lend you my laptop."

Reported speech

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

- 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.*


- 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. 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. I had a brilliant time.




2. I loved wind-surfing!




3. I didn't like the food.




4. I'm not looking forward to going back to school.




5. I was getting bored of lying on the beach.




6. I've never had so much fun in my life.



7. I hope we'll go to the same place again next year.



8. I'm going to get my photos developed tomorrow.



- Mrs Jones said (that) she (had) had a brilliant time.
- Jimmy
- Grandmother
- Judy
- Mr Jones
- Paul
- Tracy
- Danny