Read the following explanation about Reported Speech (Direct/Indirect Speech).

Reported speech, also known as indirect speech, is used to report what someone else has said without quoting them directly. The key characteristics of reported speech are changing pronouns, verb tenses, and time expressions to match the perspective of the person reporting, not the original speaker. Here are some key points:

1. **Pronoun Changes:** The pronouns are usually changed according to the subject of the reporting speech.
   Direct: He said, "I am tired." Reported: He said that he was tired.
2. **Verb Tense Changes:** The tenses generally shift back in reported speech (this is sometimes called "backshifting").
   Direct: She said, "I am going (present tense) to the market." Reported: She said that she was going (past tense) to the market.
3. **Changes in Time and Place References:** Words that indicate places and times are also often changed in reported speech.
   Direct: He said, "I'm going to the cinema tomorrow." Reported: He said that he was going to the cinema the next day.
4. **Reported Questions:** When changing questions into reported speech, the sentence becomes a statement and the word order changes.
   Direct: He asked, "Where is the bank?" Reported: He asked where the bank was.
5. **Reported Commands:** In reported commands, use the structure "tell" or "ask" + person + to + verb.
   Direct: She said, "Close the door." Reported: She asked him to close the door.

CHANGE OF THE VERBS IN REPORTED SPEECH

Here's a general guide to how the tenses change:

1. **Present simple** changes to **past simple**.
   - Direct: He says, "I **live** in New York."
   - Reported: He says that he **lived** in New York.
2. **Present continuous** changes to **past continuous**.
   - Direct: He is saying, "I **am eating** lunch."
   - Reported: He is saying that he **was eating** lunch.
3. **Present perfect** changes to **past perfect**.
   - Direct: He has said, "I **have seen** that movie."
   - Reported: He has said that he **had seen** that movie.
4. **Past simple** changes to **past perfect**.
   - Direct: He said, "I **went** to Paris."
   - Reported: He said that he **had gone** to Paris.
5. **Will** changes to **would**.
   - Direct: He will say, "I **will** return soon."
   - Reported: He will say that he **would** return soon.
6. **Can** changes to **could**
   - Direct: She says, "I **can** swim."
   - Reported: She says that she **could** swim.
7. **May** changes to **might**
   - Direct: They say, "We **may** come later."
   - Reported: They say that they **might** come later.

Note: The verb tense does not always need to change in reported speech. If the reported information is still true or relevant at the time of reporting, it's possible to keep the present tense. For example, "He said he **is** a doctor" can be correct if he is still a doctor at the moment of reporting.

Also, the verb tense change typically applies when the reporting verb is in the past tense. If the reporting verb is in the present or future tense (e.g., "He says" or "He will say"), there is usually no change in the following verb tense.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXERCISES

I. Re-write the sentence to convert the direct speech into reported speech. Remember to adjust the tenses, pronouns, and time expressions where necessary. Number 1 is done for you.

1. "I didn't go to Coldplay's concert last night," she said.
   a. She said that she hadn't gone to Coldplay's concert the night before.
   b. She said that she didn't go to Coldplay's concert the night before.
   Answer: *She said that she hadn't gone to Coldplay's concert the night before.*
2. "I'll call you when I arrive," he said.
   a. He said that he will be call me when he arrived.
   b. He said that he would call me when he arrived.
   Answer: _____.
3. "I have never been to Europe," she said.
   a. She said that she had never been to Europe.
   b. She said that she never be to Europe.
   Answer: _____.
4. "They are moving to Canada next month," he said.
   a. He said that they are moving to Canada the following month.
   b. He said that they were moving to Canada the following month.
   Answer: _____.
5. "I can play the piano," she said.
   a. She said that she can play the piano.
   b. She said that she could play the piano.
   Answer: _____.
6. "I have finished my homework," he said.
   a. He said that he would finished his homework.
   b. He said that he had finished his homework.
   Answer: _____.
7. He asked, "Where is the bus station?"
   a. He asked where the bus station was.
   b. He asked where the bus station is.
   Answer: _____.
8. She asked, "What time does the movie start?"
   a. She asked what time the movie will start.
   b. She asked what time the movie started.
   Answer: _____.
9. "Don't touch the wet paint," he warned.
   a. He warned don't to touch the wet paint.
   b. He warned not to touch the wet paint.
   Answer: _____.
10. "Study for the test," the teacher told the students.
    a. The teacher tell the students to study for the test.
    b. The teacher told the students to study for the test.
    Answer: _____.
11. "Please close the door," she requested.
    c. She requested to close the door.
    d. She requested to closed the door.
    Answer: _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

II. Match the picture on left to the correct of reported speech on right side.

A. 	The teacher told us to open our books.
B. 	He asked us to be quiet.
C. 	The doctor instructed me to take the medicine twice a day.
D. 	He asked where the nearest gas station was.
E. 	They asked who had won the football match.
F. 	The coach shouted, "Run faster!"
G. 	She asked when the concert started.

LIVEWORKSHEETS