Unit 31 Grammar

Reported speech

Reported speech

Use	Example
To report what someone else said	*My dad said that he'**d written** a song.*

Form

Direct speech	Reported speech
present simple *'I **want** to build a new house,' said Jill.*	past simple *Jill said she **wanted** to build a new house.*
present continuous *'We **are making** a dress,' they said.*	past continuous *They said they **were making** a dress.*
present perfect continuous *'I **have been drawing** all day,' said Debbie.*	past perfect continuous *Debbie said she **had been drawing** all day.*
past simple *'Jim **made** a card for me yesterday,' Amy said.*	past perfect simple *Amy said Jim **had made** a card for her the day before.*
past continuous *'I **was writing** a poem,' said Tina.*	past perfect continuous *Tina said she **had been writing** a poem.*
will *'I **will** make you a scarf,' my grandma said.*	*would* *My grandma said she **would** make me a scarf.*
am/is/are going to *'They **are going to** make a new one,' said Joe.*	*was/were going to* *Joe said they **were going to** make a new one.*
can *'I **can** draw quite well,' Emma said.*	*could* *Emma said she **could** draw quite well.*
must / have to *'You **have to** visit the fashion show,' she said.*	*had to* *She said we **had to** visit the fashion show.*
may *'I **may** visit the White House next week,' said Polly.*	*might* *Polly said she **might** visit the White House the following week*

Helpful hints

We often have to change other words apart from the verb form.

pronouns

- *I* ➡ *he/she*
- *you* ➡ *I/me/they/them*
- *we* ➡ *they*
- *us* ➡ *them*
- *my* ➡ *his/her*
- *your* ➡ *my/their*

time and place

- *here* ➡ *there*
- *now* ➡ *then/at that moment*
- *tomorrow* ➡ *the next day*
- *tonight* ➡ *that night*
- *next week* ➡ *the following week*
- *yesterday* ➡ *the day before*
- *last week* ➡ *the week before*
- *ago* ➡ *before*

Watch out!

- We only make tense changes when the reporting verb (*say*, etc) is in the past.
  ✓ *Tony **says** he **is going** to study architecture.*
  ✗ ~~*Tony **says** he **was going** to study architecture.*~~
- We don't change the past perfect simple and the past perfect continuous.
  ✓ *'I **had seen** the picture before.' ➡ He said **he had** seen the picture before.*
- We also don't change *would*, *should*, *could* and *might*.
  ✓ *'I **might** take up painting.' ➡ She said she **might** take up painting.*
- We can use verbs like *apologise*, *deny*, *promise*, *refuse* and *suggest* in reported speech.
  ✓ *Jan **apologised for** losing the picture.*
  ✓ *He **denied** breaking the statue.*
  ✓ *Terence **promised to** help me decorate the house.*
  ✓ *Charlotte **refused to** let me see her painting.*
  ✓ *My dad **suggested** going to an art gallery.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Choose the correct answer.

1 'I'm a big fan of U2,' Derek said.
Derek said he ..... a big fan of U2.
A was
B has been
C had been

2 'We're watching TV,' said the twins.
The twins said they ..... TV.
A watched
B were watching
C had watched

3 'You've been annoying me all day!' my mum said.
My mum said I ..... her all day.
A annoyed
B was annoying
C had been annoying

4 'The dog ate my homework!' said Ivan.
Ivan said the dog ..... his homework.
A was eating
B had eaten
C has eaten

5 'At one o'clock, I was having lunch,' said Molly.
Molly said she ..... lunch at one o'clock.
A had been having
B has had
C is having

6 'You'll get wet without an umbrella,' Dad said.
Dad said I ..... wet without an umbrella.
A will be getting
B got
C would get

7 'He can juggle five balls!' said Angie.
Angie said he ..... five balls.
A juggled
B would juggle
C could juggle

8 'You must give me your essays,' Mrs Vine said.
Mrs Vine said we ..... give her our essays.
A were having to
B had to
C would have to

B Complete using the words and phrases in the boxes.

his • their • them • there

before • that night • the day before • the next day

1 'I'm seeing Simon tomorrow,' Mary said.
Mary said she was seeing Simon ..... .

2 'We moved into the area two years ago,' Bella said.
Bella said they had moved into the area two years ..... .

3 'Our teacher is giving us a test!' said Michelle.
Michelle said their teacher was giving ..... a test.

4 'My dad gave me fifty pounds!' said Neil.
Neil said ..... dad had given him fifty pounds.

5 'I scored a great goal yesterday,' Marina said.
Marina said she had scored a great goal ..... .

6 'We saw our cousin at the fair,' said Ben.
Ben said they had seen ..... cousin at the fair.

7 'I left my wallet here,' Frank said.
Frank said he had left his wallet ..... .

8 'I'll sleep well tonight!' said Arnie.
Arnie said he would sleep well ..... .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C Underline the mistake in each second sentence and write the correct words.

1 'There's a mouse in the kitchen!' said Martha.
Martha said there had been a mouse in the kitchen. .....

2 'We've won every match this year,' Amy said.
Amy said they won every match that year. .....

3 'I broke my leg two weeks ago,' said Spencer.
Spencer said he had broken his leg two weeks ago. .....

4 'We'd heard the song before,' Rory said.
Rory said he had heard the song before. .....

5 'I've been working since four o'clock,' said Dad.
Dad said he was working since four o'clock. .....

6 'We're spending tomorrow by the swimming pool,' Belinda said.
Belinda said they have spent the next day by the swimming pool. .....

D Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words.

1 'I'm going to bake a cake,' said Mum. **she**
Mum said ..... to bake a cake.

2 'Richard has passed his driving test,' Andy said. **passed**
Andy said ..... his driving test.

3 'We're staying in tonight to watch TV,' Jim said. **that**
Jim said they ..... to watch TV.

4 'I'm thinking of going on a diet,' said George. **he**
George said ..... of going on a diet.

5 'My sister lived in Russia for a year,' Carol said. **lived**
Carol said ..... in Russia for a year.

6 'I went snowboarding last year,' Jill said. **year**
Jill said she ..... before.

7 'I'll call you tomorrow,' Karl said to me. **next**
Karl said he ..... day.

8 'We're flying home next week,' said Arthur. **the**
Arthur said they ..... week.

E Rewrite the sentences in reported speech using the verb given.

1 'I'm sorry I told everyone your secret,' my sister said. **apologised**
.....

2 'I didn't give the money to John,' said Ali. **denied**
.....

3 'I'll love you forever!' Francis said to Elizabeth. **promised**
.....

4 'No, I won't open the door!' said Mandy. **refused**
.....

5 'Why don't we give Jenny a call?' Albert said. **suggested**
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS