Unit 32

Grammar

Reported questions, orders, requests

Reported questions, orders, requests

Use	Example
To report what someone else asked/ordered/requested	*Pat asked me if I had tried the jeans on in the shop.*
Form	
Direct question/order/request	Reported question/order/request
questions beginning with *have, do* or *be*	
*'**Have** you **been** to the gallery?' he asked her.*	*He asked her **if** she **had been** to the gallery.*
*'**Do** you **want** a sweater?' my mum asked.*	*My mum asked **if** I **wanted** a sweater.*
*'**Are** you **making** a skirt?' I asked Anne.*	*I asked Anne **if** she **was making** a skirt.*
questions beginning with a modal	
*'**Can** you paint?' Mary asked her friend.*	*Mary asked her friend **if** he **could** paint.*
*'**Will** you make me one?' I asked Terry.*	*I asked Terry **if** he **would** make me one.*
*'**Shall** I wear a jacket?' I asked Mum.*	*I asked Mum **if** I **should** wear a jacket.*
*'**May** I borrow your coat?' Mr Jones asked me.*	*Mr Jones asked me **if** he **might** borrow my coat.*
questions beginning with a question word	
*'**What** kind of shoes are in fashion now?' my mum asked me.*	*My mum asked me **what** kind of shoes **were** in fashion at that moment.*
*'**Who** did you see at the fashion show?' asked Ben.*	*Ben asked **who** I **had seen** at the fashion show.*
*'**Which** one do you want?' Sarah asked Liam.*	*Sarah asked Liam **which** one he **wanted**.*
*'**When** will they finish the house?' I asked.*	*I asked **when** they **would** finish the house.*
*'**Why** did you say that?' my sister asked me.*	*My sister asked me **why** I **had said** that.*
*'**How** much did your hat cost?' Ed asked Carl.*	*Ed asked Carl **how** much his hat **had cost**.*
orders	
*'**Put** your clothes in the drawer,' Mum said.*	*Mum **told** me **to put** my clothes in the drawer.*
*'**Don't wear** the red one,' Alice said.*	*Alice **told** me **not to wear** the red one.*
requests	
*'**Will** you **make** me one?' I asked Terry.*	*I **asked** Terry **to make** me one.*
*'**Please don't move** my pictures,' said Olga.*	*Olga **asked** me **not to move** her pictures.*

Helpful hints

We can also use *whether* instead of *if* in reported questions.
✓ *He asked her **whether** she had been to the gallery.*

Watch out!

Remember not to use question word order in reported questions.
✓ *I asked when **they would finish the house**.*
✗ *~~I asked when would they finish the house~~.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Circle the correct answer.

1 'Has your brother gone out?' Mum asked me.
Mum asked me if my brother **has gone / had gone** out.

2 'Do you know the answer?' Miss Smith asked Ruby.
Miss Smith asked Ruby if she **knew / had known** the answer.

3 'Is this your car?' the police officer said to the man.
The police officer asked the man if it **is / was** his car.

4 'Have you been to see the exhibition?' I asked Benjamin.
I asked Benjamin if he **went / had been** to see the exhibition.

5 'Does your laptop need a new battery?' Jerry asked me.
Jerry asked me if my laptop **needed / will need** a new battery.

6 'Are you having a barbecue?' I asked the Browns.
I asked the Browns if they **were having / had been having** a barbecue.

B Write one word in each gap.

1 'Will you be at the party?' Richard asked me.
Richard asked me if I ..... be at the party.

2 'May I ask you a few questions?' the woman asked Ted.
The woman asked Ted if she ..... ask him a few questions.

3 'Can we go to the zoo tomorrow?' Jane asked her father.
Jane asked her father if they ..... go to the zoo the following day.

4 'Shall I study maths or English?' Sally asked her best friend.
Sally asked her best friend whether she ..... study maths or English.

5 'Can you write with your left hand?' Val asked me.
Val asked me whether I ..... write with my left hand.

6 'Shall we play tennis or volleyball?' Debbie asked her sister.
Debbie asked her sister if they ..... play tennis or volleyball.

7 'May I leave the table?' Samantha asked her parents.
Samantha asked her parents if she ..... leave the table.

8 'Will our bus leave on time?' Mum asked the driver.
Mum asked the driver whether our bus ..... leave on time.

C Complete each second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words.

1 'When did your brother join the army?' Rudy asked me.
Rudy asked me ..... the army.

2 'How was your trip to Turkey?' I asked Katherine.
I asked Katherine how ..... been.

3 'How will we find your keys in the dark?' Ashley asked Susie.
Ashley asked Susie ..... keys in the dark.

4 'Why was Rob on TV?' Denise asked me.
Denise asked me ..... on TV.

5 'Who saw you at the park?' the police officer asked me.
The police officer asked me ..... at the park.

6 'Who did you see at the park?' the police officer asked me.
The police officer asked me ..... at the park.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.



1 My mum told ..... .
2 I ..... .
3 The man ..... .
4 The parrot ..... .
5 Jenny's grandma ..... .
6 The magician ..... .

E Choose the correct answer.

1 'Could you pass me the salt, please?' I asked the man next to me.
I asked the man next to me ..... me the salt.
A pass B if he passes C to pass

2 'Would you mind waiting a moment?' the shop assistant asked the woman.
The shop assistant asked the woman ..... for a moment.
A to wait B waiting C she wait

3 'Please don't leave your dirty football boots in the hall,' Mum said to Doug.
Mum told Doug ..... his dirty football boots in the hall.
A that he doesn't leave B not to leave C don't leave

4 'Could you tell us where you were at six o'clock?' the police officers asked Barry.
The police officers asked Barry ..... he had been at six o'clock.
A telling them where B where he tells them C to tell them where

5 'Could I have your e-mail address?' I asked Mariella.
I asked Mariella ..... e-mail address.
A to give me her B give me your C give me her

6 'Can I have a new Xbox for my birthday?' I asked my mum.
I asked my mum ..... a new Xbox.
A that she get me B get me C to get me

F If the word or phrase in bold is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is wrong, write the correct word or phrase.

1 I asked Toni why **had she taken** my CD without asking me. .....
2 Roger told Isabelle **don't make** any plans for the weekend. .....
3 Madison asked me how much my new jeans **had cost**. .....
4 Alexander asked his dad **giving** him some money for his school trip. .....
5 I told Jeremy **you don't move** while I took his photograph. .....
6 Annie told her dog **to sit**, but it didn't. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS