● Reported speech / reported questions / reporting verbs

Reported speech: tense and modal changes

- We use reported speech when we want to say what someone else said.
  eg *Jason said he was going to buy a new pair of trainers.*
- If the reporting verb is in the past (eg *said*), we usually have to change the tense of what the person actually said.

Direct speech	Reported speech	Example
present simple	past simple	*'I **need** a credit card,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **needed** a credit card.*
present continuous	past continuous	*'**I'm taking** Lizzie shopping,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **was taking** Lizzie shopping.*
present perfect simple	past perfect simple	*'**I've bought** Tom a present,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **'d bought** Tom a present.*
present perfect continuous	past perfect continuous	*'**I've been thinking** about buying a car,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **'d been thinking** about buying a car.*
past simple	past perfect simple	*'I **spent** six euros,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **'d spent** six euros.*
past continuous	past perfect continuous	*'I **was hoping** to find a new top,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **'d been hoping** to find a new top.*
past perfect simple	past perfect simple (no tense change)	*'**I'd looked** everywhere for my credit card before I found it,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **'d looked** everywhere for his credit card before he found it.*
past perfect continuous	past perfect continuous (no tense change)	*'**I'd been looking** for that book for weeks before I found it,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **'d been looking** for that book for weeks before he found it.*
am/is/are going to	*was/were going to*	*'**I'm going to** go shopping,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **was going to** go shopping.*
will	*would*	*'**I'll** need a credit card,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **would** need a credit card.*
can	*could*	*'I **can** take Lizzie shopping,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **could** take Lizzie shopping.*
must / have to	*had to*	*'I **must** go to the supermarket,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **had to** go to the supermarket.*
may	*might*	*'I **may** go shopping later,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he **might** go shopping later.*

Watch out!

- We do not need to make any changes to the verb tense or modal when we are reporting a scientific fact or when something is still true.
  ✓ *'Most banks **charge** interest,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said most banks **charge** interest.*

Reported speech: pronoun and determiner changes

- With reported speech, we also usually have to change some pronouns and determiners. These changes include:

Direct speech	Reported speech	Example
my	*his / her*	*'I've lost **my** credit card,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he had lost **his** credit card.*
this / that + noun	*the / that*	*'I love **this** sweater,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he loved **the / that** sweater.*
this / that + verb	*it*	*'**This** is a lovely sweater,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said **it** was a lovely sweater.*
these / those + noun	*the / those*	*'I love **those** sweaters,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he loved **the / those** sweaters.*
these / those + verb	*they*	*'**These** are lovely sweaters,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said **they** were lovely sweaters.*
verb + *these / those*	*them*	*'I'm going to buy **these**,' said Tim. ➡ Tim said he was going to buy **them**.*

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Reported speech: time and place changes

- With reported speech, we also usually have to change words and phrases connected to time and place. These changes include:

Direct speech	Reported speech	Example
here	*there*	*'I usually shop **here**,' said Tim.* ➡ *Tim said he usually shopped **there**.*
now / at the moment	*then / at that moment*	*'I'm shopping **at the moment**,' said Tim.* ➡ *Tim said he was shopping **then / at that moment**.*
tomorrow	*the next/following day*	*'I'm going shopping **tomorrow**,' said Tim.* ➡ *Tim said he was going shopping **the next/following day**.*
tonight	*that night*	*'I'm going shopping **tonight**,' said Tim.* ➡ *Tim said he was going shopping **that night**.*
next week/month/year	*the following week/month/year*	*'I'm going shopping **next week**,' said Tim.* ➡ *Tim said he was going shopping **the following week**.*
yesterday	*the day before / the previous day*	*'I went shopping **yesterday**,' said Tim.* ➡ *Tim said he'd been shopping **the day before / the previous day**.*
last week/month/year	*the week/month/year before / the previous week/month/year*	*'I went shopping **last week**,' said Tim.* ➡ *Tim said he'd been shopping **the week before / the previous week**.*
ago	*before / previously*	*'I went shopping two days **ago**,' said Tim.* ➡ *Tim said he'd been shopping two days **before / previously**.*

Watch out!

- We do not need to make any changes to time words/phrases when the information is still true at the moment of speaking/writing.
  - ✓ *'**I'm** going shopping **tomorrow**,' said Tim to Ben.* ➡ *Ben immediately called Lizzie and said, 'Tim said he**'s** going shopping **tomorrow**.'*

Reported questions

- We use reported questions when we want to say what someone else asked.
  eg *Tim asked Tom if he wanted to go shopping with him.*
- We use the same rules regarding tense, pronoun and time and place word/phrase changes with reported questions as we do with reported speech.

Direct speech	Reported speech	Example
have, do, be or modal (ie yes/no questions)	use *if* or *whether*	***'Can you get me** an ice cream, Tom?' asked Tim.* ➡ *Tim asked Tom **if / whether he could get him** an ice cream.*
what, who, which, when, where, why and *how*	*what, who, which, when, where, why* and *how*	***'Why did you buy these** shoes?' asked Tim.* ➡ *Tim asked **me why I had bought those** shoes.*

Watch out!

- In direct questions we use the question form and question marks (*Can you ... ?*).
  In reported questions we don't use the question form or question marks (*asked if he could ...*).

Reporting verbs

- Different reporting verbs take different grammatical patterns. Some verbs can take more than one pattern.
  - ✓ **deny** (verb + noun) *Katie **denied the accusation**.*
  - ✓ **deny** (verb + *that* clause) *Katie **denied (that)** she was a shoplifter.*
  - ✓ **deny** (verb + *-ing*) *Katie **denied stealing** the chocolate biscuits.*

See page 197 for a full list of verbs and patterns.

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A Complete using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 Stewart said he ..... (**not / want**) any dessert as he was full.
2 Derek said that he and Belinda ..... (**see**) Adam recently.
3 When I called, Susie said she ..... (**give**) the dog a bath so she asked me to phone back in half an hour.
4 Marcus said he ..... (**try**) to find a flat for ages before he finally found one he liked.
5 Debbie says she ..... (**decide**) to quit her job but I don't believe her.
6 Our English teacher said that Shakespeare ..... (**be**) probably the greatest writer in the English language ever.
7 Richard said he and Patricia ..... (**be going to**) invite her parents for the weekend, but I don't know if they went or not.
8 Charlotte said last night that she really ..... (**love**) me, even if she doesn't always show it.
9 Ollie said to Linda that he ..... (**ask**) me to be his best man on Monday but in fact he asked Grant.
10 Pete told Francis he ..... (**bring up**) by his grandparents but in fact he hadn't at all.

B If a word or phrase in bold is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is incorrect, rewrite it correctly.

1 On Monday, my boss said I **can** take Wednesday off, but he changed his mind today for some reason. .....
2 The receptionist said that if I wanted to have breakfast, I **will** have to pay extra.
.....
3 A lot of people at school have said that Andrew **may** get the lead in the school play.
.....
4 Colin said **he'd been planning** to ask Rich to move in with him for ages.
.....
5 Lucy says she **would** let us know as soon as she gets the tickets. .....
6 Jordan said that she **has to** get up at five thirty every morning. .....
7 Before he got his results, Philip said that he **may** have to retake some exams, but now he knows he doesn't have to. .....
8 Did Mrs Morgan say why **she'd called**? .....
9 Paul said he **should** be here tomorrow night at about nine. .....
10 Dan said he **must** drive to Liverpool that night, but apparently he didn't go in the end.
.....

C Write one word in each gap.

1 Tonya said ..... TV was broken and asked if she could come around to watch the football with us.
2 Your father said that ..... old newspapers in the garage might be collector's items.
3 Dana told the kids she had no option but to punish ..... .
4 Wendy said to thank you for the tomatoes and that ..... were the tastiest ones she'd ever eaten.
5 Before he left, Carsen told his hosts that ..... had been a lovely evening.
6 As soon as he saw the jeans, Bob told us that he had to have ..... .

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7 The Pattersons said that ..... eldest daughter has just got a job working at the White House.

8 Grandpa said that ..... picture over there was painted by his great-grandfather.

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 in each gap.

1 'We'll be travelling round Europe next month,' said Jerry. **following**
Jerry said that ..... be travelling round Europe.

2 'I had Evan and Christie over for dinner last night,' said Liz. **before**
Liz said that ..... had Evan and Christie over for dinner.

3 'Daz came here two days ago and then suddenly left,' said Barry. **gone**
Barry said that Daz had ..... and then suddenly left.

4 'We're going on our yearly diet tomorrow,' said Jessie and Sandy together. **starting**
Jessie and Sandy said together that ..... yearly diet the next day.

5 'I can pick you two boys up from school this afternoon,' said their father to George and Kevin. **that**
George and Kevin's father told his sons ..... up from school that afternoon.

6 'I'll buy these as they're so cheap!' said Toby. **going**
Toby said he ..... as they were so cheap.

7 'You must study harder, Dave,' said Dave's mum. **him**
Dave's mum ..... study harder.

8 'I think you may be coming down with flu,' Greg said to me. **thought**
Greg said that ..... be coming down with flu.

9 'I don't know why they haven't contacted me recently,' said Tine. **been**
Tine said she didn't know why ..... recently.

10 'Everything was different yesterday,' said Ben. **been**
Ben said everything ..... before.

E Write one word in each gap.

The Excuses

The office was silent. 'So, let me get this right,' (1) ..... Alison calmly. 'Not one of you is willing to donate some money towards Mr Bartlett's leaving present.' There was silence again for a moment, then Deidre (2) ..... up, saying that she (3) ..... love to give a donation, but unfortunately her house (4) ..... being painted that week and she (5) ..... not have any spare cash at all. Alec was next. He was very apologetic and said that he (6) ..... meant to bring some money to work (7) ..... morning, but had forgotten. Perhaps tomorrow? Betty said she (8) ..... completely broke at (9) ..... moment in time, and said she (10) ..... not give anything until she (11) ..... her pay cheque at the end of the week. Alison stared at them all. She (12) ..... them how disappointed she (13) ..... with all of them, and that she (14) ..... remember their excuses when it was time for (15) ..... to retire. She slammed the door behind her as she left the room.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

F Rewrite as reported questions, beginning with the words given.

1 'Have you had your ear pierced?'
My mum asked me if .....

2 'Can I meet you there at six o'clock tonight, Doug?'
Julian wanted to know whether .....

3 'Are you still moving to Blackpool next week?'
Fiona asked Rod and Jenny whether .....

4 'Does Graham have to wear a suit to work?'
I asked Mrs Daley if Graham .....

5 'Do you want someone to feed your cat while you're away?'
Jan asked me if .....

6 'Can you guess what I've given Lindsay for her birthday?'
Daisy asked Wendy if .....

7 'Do you love me or not, Gloria?'
Fred asked Gloria whether .....

8 'Will Simon be coming to the party tomorrow night'
Adrian wondered whether .....

9 'Tell me if you were anywhere near 34 Aylesford Street last night!'
The police officer demanded to know whether Sykes .....

G Rewrite as direct questions.

1 She asked me why I was thinking of quitting the gym.
.....

2 He asked her what the difference was between a refugee and an asylum seeker.
.....

3 They asked us how we had got on with Peter three days before.
.....

4 I asked them when they had last been on holiday.
.....

5 She asked him which of them he preferred.
.....

6 I asked you how you were going to get to Manchester tomorrow.
.....

7 Carl asked Megan who she had been out with the weekend before.
.....

8 Megan asked Carl what gave him the right to ask questions like that.
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

H Complete using the correct form of the words in the box.

agree • apologise • ask • claim • deny • order • refuse • state • suggest • tell

1 If you want ..... me a question, put your hand up.

2 I ..... very clearly several times already that this government is not going to be blackmailed by terrorists.

3 The general ..... the soldiers to retreat, which they did as quickly as they could!

4 Isabelle, ... that story about the giraffe. I love that story!

5 Glenda still ..... to me for losing my CD player.

6 If you ..... to cooperate with the police, you would have been in big trouble!

7 I'd like ..... waiting a few more days before we make a final decision.

8 The politician ..... having done anything wrong, despite the evidence against him.

9 I ..... to help you with your homework, not do it all for you!

10 Some thieves ..... to be electricity meter readers so they can gain access to people's houses.

I Circle the extra word in each line.

Getting a mortgage

Someone told to me a few months ago that getting a mortgage would be easy. How
wrong they were! When I first went into the bank, I asked if them how much I could
borrow. They refused that to answer even such a simple question, saying that I had to
actually find a house before they could tell me whether they would have lend me the
money or not. I thought this was ridiculous and so told it a white lie, saying that
I had been already found a house. They finally said they would lend me the money, so
that was great. Then the problems started. A few weeks later a friend told me that about
a wonderful flat that was for sale. He suggested to our buying it together because it was
so large and I agreed. When I went back to the bank and said so I was planning to
buy a flat with a friend, the bank manager denied doing that he had ever said the bank
would give me a mortgage and claimed that he has had looked at my finances and knew
I wasn't earning enough to borrow money. I begged with him to have another look at my
records as I knew he was wrong. Finally, he agreed me to reconsider my case and
eventually sent me a letter which stated that the bank would was quite happy to give me
a mortgage. By then, though, it was said too late as someone else had bought the flat!

LIVEWORKSHEETS