8 The Secret World of Ants

Discover Grammar

A **Listen and read. The fourth grade are at the Rainforest Museum.** 18



Guide These are leafcutter ants. They're from Central and South America. They recycle about 20 percent of leaves in the rainforest.

Children Wow!

Guide They have lots of different jobs. There are soldier ants, scouts, leaf-cutters, gardeners, and there is, of course, the queen.

Girl How many of them live together?

Guide Sometimes over five million ants live together in a nest. And they are really strong. They can carry over 50 times their own weight.

Boy Can they talk to each other?

Guide No, they can't talk, but they do communicate. They can warn each other when there's danger. And they tell each other where to find food. They use their antennae to pick up smells from other ants. The smells are called scents. They can leave about twenty different scent messages by rubbing their abdomen (their body) on the ground.

B **The children are back at school. What do they remember? Match the questions and answers.**

1 What did the guide tell us about leaves?
2 What did she say about their nests?
3 Did you ask any questions?
4 What did she say about communication?

a I asked her if the ants could talk to each other.
b She told us that the ants could leave about twenty different scent messages.
c She told us that the ants recycled about 20 percent of the leaves in the rainforest.
d She said that sometimes over five million ants lived together in a nest.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C **Look at the answers in exercise B. Find the direct speech in the story and underline.**

D **Match the questions to the reported speech.**

1	"What are the ants doing?"	a	We asked her when the ants slept.
2	"How many ants are there in the tank?"	b	Antonio asked her what the ants were doing.
3	"Which one is the queen ant?"	c	Yolanda asked her which one the queen ant was.
4	"When do the ants sleep?"	d	I asked her how many ants there were in the tank.

Learn Grammar

A **Read and learn.**

Reported Speech with *Told* and *Asked*

We use *said* in reported speech if we don't say who the person was talking to.

"Ants live in giant nests." → The guide said that ants lived in giant nests.

We use *told* in reported speech when we say who the person was talking to. We use a name or object pronoun.



The guide told me that the ants lived in giant nests.

The teacher told the children to listen carefully.

TIP The object pronouns are *me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them.*

Reported Questions

For reported questions, use *asked* + name or object pronoun + *if* or *whether*. Remember to change the tense and change the question mark to a period.

"Do ants eat flowers?" → Farid asked her if / whether ants ate flowers.

"Can I leave the room?" → I asked Leni if / whether I could leave the room.

For reported questions with question words, change the word order back to a normal affirmative sentence.

"Where are the ants?" → I asked her where the ants were.

"What are they eating?" → She asked them what the ants were eating.

B **Circle the correct verbs.**

1 The principal **told** / **said** everyone about the insect competition.
2 Mrs. Ansell **told** / **said** Hannah to make a model of a bee.
3 Gemma **told** / **said** me to help her find a picture of a beetle.
4 Selma **told** / **said** the posters looked colourful.
5 I **told** / **said** the best one was Miranda's.
6 My mom and dad **told** / **said** my picture was fantastic.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C **Listen and read. Highlight all the examples of *said that*, *told … that* and *asked … if* in the text.** 19



My Wolf Project

We went to the wildlife park this holiday. I talked to the keeper. His name was Mr. Andy Damon. Andy studies wolves. He said that wolves used their body language and their faces to communicate. He said that they used their ears, tails, and body position to share their feelings with the rest of the pack. I don't like the noise wolves make. He said that the noise was called a howl. I asked him if howling was a sign of anger. He told me that wolves howled to scare other animals away and to protect their young, but he also said that sometimes they probably just howled for fun!

D **Complete the sentences. Write *said*, *told*, or *asked*.**

1 Mr. Damon _____ me that he studied wolves.
2 He _____ that wolves used their bodies and faces to communicate.
3 I _____ him that I didn't like the noise wolves make.
4 I _____ him if howling was a sign of anger.
5 He _____ me wolves howled to scare other animals away.
6 He also _____ they howled for fun!

E **Change the direct speech to reported speech.**

1 "I'm doing my homework project."
Maria told Anton that she _____ homework project.
2 "Are you writing about wolves?"
Anton asked Maria _____ about wolves.
3 "Yes. I love wolves!"
Maria said that _____ wolves.
4 "I have a picture of them on my T-shirt."
Cristophe said that _____ a picture of them on _____ T-shirt.
5 "Can I copy your T-shirt?"
Maria asked Cristophe _____ T-shirt.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

F **Change these questions into reported speech.**

1 "Where is the wildlife show?"
He asked where _____.

2 "How many tickets do you have?"
She asked how many _____.

3 "What time does it start?"
They asked what _____.

4 "Can I sit near the front?"
He asked if _____.

5 "Do you want some ice cream?"
She asked whether _____.

6 "Can I take photos?"
They asked if _____.

G **Read the sentences. Circle the speaker(s). Underline the listener(s).**

1 The attendant asked if I could give my ticket to her.
2 Lucy told me the parrot gave her a strange look.
3 The guide asked me if I was listening to him.
4 The animal keepers told Oscar they were going to see his talk about birds.
5 You asked us if we had an information booklet.
6 Adam and Toby told Jake that he could sit with them.

H **Match the direct speech to the sentences above. Write a number. Then complete the text.**

__1__ "Can you give __your__ ticket to __me__?"
_____ "_____ are going to see _____ talk about birds."
_____ "Are you listening to _____?"
_____ "Do _____ have an information booklet?"
_____ "_____ can sit with _____."
_____ "The parrot gave _____ a strange look."

Let's Talk!

I **Talk to your partner about the insects, birds, and animals they like. Think of five questions to ask. Write them down. Use these ideas or your own.**

Do you like animals? *Do you like going to the zoo?* *Do you think ants are smart?*

Which animals are you good at drawing? *What is your favorite animal?*

J **Now talk to a different partner. Tell them about your questions, and what your first partner said to you. Use reported speech!**

I spoke to Amelia. She said that her favorite animal was an elephant. She told me she liked going to the zoo. I asked her if she thought ants were smart.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Module 4 Review



A Change the direct speech to reported speech.

1 "I'm learning about bees," said Jack.
Jack told me that he _____ about bees.

2 "Are you drawing a picture?" I asked.
I asked him _____ a picture.

3 "No, I can't draw bees," he said.
Jack said that _____ bees.

4 "Can I help you?" I asked.
I asked him _____.

5 "What do you want to do?" he asked.
He asked me _____ to do.

6 "I can draw a fantastic queen bee for you!" I said.
I told him that I _____ a fantastic queen bee for _____.

7 "Thanks! I would like that!" said Jack.
Jack told _____ like that.

B Complete the sentences, using reported speech. Use *asked*, *said*, or *told*.

1 "Anita, can you tell us about bees?"
We _____ Anita to tell us about bees.

2 Anita _____ us about bees and flowers.

3 She _____ that bees collected nectar to drink.

4 She _____ us that they left their scent on the flowers, to tell other bees there was no nectar left.

5 I _____ that this was very clever!

C Write reported questions with question words.

1 "How do bees know which flowers to visit?" (Ana)
Ana asked how the bees knew which flowers to visit.

2 "What does a bee like to drink?" (Marco)
Marco _____.

3 "What happens when the nectar is finished?" (Pedro)
_____

4 "How many bees visit the same flower in one day?" (Maria)
_____

5 "What does the queen bee do?" (Ana)
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D **Write reported questions.**

1 "Are the bees always hungry?" (Nada)
Nada asked if the bees were always hungry.

2 "Do the bees like large or small flowers?" (Kamil)
Kamil _____.

3 "Do the bees eat any other type of food?" (Sana)
_____

4 "Can bees see different colors?" (Tarik)
_____

HOTspot **How do you think bees choose which flowers to visit? Bees make a loud buzzing noise if they are disturbed. Why do you think they do this?**

E **Circle the correct object pronouns.**

Teacher Thank you for your interesting talk, Anita. Listen, everyone. What did Anita tell us about bees?
Omar She told [1] **us** / **him** that the bees drink nectar.
Sara And Tom asked [2] **her** / **him** whether the color of the flower is important.
She told [3] **them** / **him** that bees can't see the color red!
Teacher Aaron, did Anita tell [4] **you** / **it** about how much they sleep – their hibernation?
Aaron Yes, she told [5] **me** / **you** that bumblebees sleep all winter – underground!

Grammar Booster

Time Words in Reported Speech

When you use reported speech, you need to change some words, such as time and place words.

here → there *this → that* *now → then* *next week → the next week*
today → that day *tomorrow → the next day* *tonight → that night* *this year → that year*

Direct speech
"There are five bees here in my garden today."

Reported speech
Lisa said there were five bees there in her garden that day.

F **Complete the sentences. Change the tenses and use the correct time and place words.**

1 "I'm visiting the wildlife park next week."
She said that _____
_____.

2 "I think this is really interesting."
He said that _____
_____.

3 "The weather is good for bees this year."
Mom said that _____
_____.

4 "I'm planting some purple flowers tomorrow."
She said that _____
_____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS