Reported speech





When we tell people **what somebody said or thought,** we often use **indirect speech.**
Tenses and **pronouns** (*I, you* etc) **change** in indirect speech if the **time** and **speaker change.**
For example, **present** tenses become past; ***I*** may become *he* or *she*; ***my*** may become *his* or *her*.

SOMEBODY SAID/THOUGHT	INDIRECT SPEECH
*'**I'm** happy.'*	*Bill said **that** he was happy.* (NOT ~~*Bill said that I'm happy.*~~)
*'**I have** a problem.'*	*I thought that I had a problem.* (NOT ~~*I thought that I have a problem.*~~)
*'She **likes** me.'*	*He knew **that** she liked him.*
*'**My** feet **are** cold.'*	*She said **her** feet **were** cold.*

We often **leave out *that***, especially after common verbs like ***say, think***.

*Bill **said** he was really happy.* *I **thought** it was a great party.*

1 Put in the correct pronouns (*I* etc) or possessives (*my* etc).

▷ 'She likes me.' He knew she liked ...him...
1 'I speak French.' He said ..... spoke French.
2 'I'm sorry.' She said ..... was sorry.
3 'Kate phoned me.' She said Kate had phoned .....
4 'We want our money.' They said ..... wanted ..... money.
5 'I'm tired.' He said ..... was tired.
6 'I can't help you.' She told me she couldn't help .....
7 'We're leaving.' They said ..... were leaving.
8 'I've lost my coat.' He said ..... had lost ..... coat.
9 'I like my job.' She told me ..... liked ..... job.
10 'Where are our tickets?' They asked where ..... tickets were.

Note the difference between ***say*** and ***tell***.
Tell must have a **personal object:** we ***tell somebody*** *something*.

*She **told me** I was late.* (NOT ~~*She told I was late.*~~)
*They **told Anna** the wrong time.* (NOT ~~*They told the wrong time to Anna.*~~)

Say doesn't need a personal object: we ***say something*** (*to somebody*).

*She **said** I was late.* (NOT ~~*She said me I was late.*~~)
*I **said** nothing to the police.* (NOT ~~*I said the police nothing.*~~)

2 Circle the correct answer.

1 I *said / told* the driver I wanted to stop.
2 My mother *said / told* there was a letter for me.
3 Everybody *said / told* I looked beautiful.
4 Why did you *say / tell* the lessons were expensive?
5 Ross *said / told* the waiter he couldn't pay.
6 I didn't *say / tell* Peter that I was going away.
7 Nobody *said / told* me that the shop was closed.
8 Mia *said / told* that she would wait at the bus stop.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TENSE CHANGES

When we tell people what somebody **said in the past**, there is a **time difference**.
(For example, somebody said something on Sunday, and I tell you about it on Monday.)
Because of this, **tenses usually change as follows:**

DIRECT SPEECH ON SUNDAY	TENSE CHANGE	INDIRECT SPEECH ON MONDAY
*The children **are** in Ireland.* *My TV **isn't** working.*	*AM/ARE/IS* ⟶ *WAS/WERE*	*Karen said her children **were** in Ireland.* *He said his TV **wasn't** working.*
*I **have** a meeting at 4.00.* *Sue **has** passed her exam.*	*HAVE/HAS* ⟶ *HAD*	*She said she **had** a meeting at 4.00.* *Sally told me Sue **had** passed her exam.*
*I **will** probably be late.*	*WILL* ⟶ *WOULD*	*I thought I **would** probably be late.*
*You **can** have three tickets.*	*CAN* ⟶ *COULD*	*The man said I **could** have three tickets.*
*It **doesn't** matter, Martin.*	*DO/DOES* ⟶ *DID*	*I told Martin it **didn't** matter.*
*The train **leaves** at 6.00.* *We all **speak** English.*	SIMPLE PRESENT ⟶ SIMPLE PAST	*The timetable said the train **left** at 6.00.* *She said they all **spoke** English.*
*I **forgot** my keys.*	SIMPLE PAST ⟶ PAST PERFECT	*He said he **had forgotten** his keys.*

3 **Rewrite the sentences in indirect speech, changing the tenses. Begin *He/She/They said ...***

▶ SALLY: 'I'm tired.' She said (that) she was tired.
1 ANNA: 'My sister needs a car.' .....
2 DANIEL: 'I have to phone Andrew.' .....
.....
3 MARY: 'Nobody wants to help me.' .....
.....
4 HELEN: 'The radio doesn't work.' .....
5 BEN: 'I will be in Paris in July.' .....
6 MIKE: 'I like the red sweater.' .....
7 DAVID: 'I can't swim.' .....
8 ALICE: 'My parents are travelling.' .....
9 MARIA: 'The lessons are very good.' .....
.....
10 BRAD AND AMY: 'We haven't heard from Joseph.' .....
.....

4 **Look at the picture to see what John thought when he was small. Write his thoughts in indirect speech.**

He thought animals could talk.
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



5 **What did you think when you were small? Write three or more sentences.**

1 .....
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Getting water in dry places

1 Look at the photos on this page. What kind of places are these? What do you think the weather is like there?

Do you know?

- People on every continent have problems with getting water.
- 2.8 billion people don't have enough water for at least one month every year.
- Over 1 billion people don't have [1]access to clean drinking water.

Ice stupas

What are they? Ice towers or [2]artificial [3]glaciers

Where are they? Ladakh, India, a desert at 3,000 m in the Himalayas

What problem do people have there? There's only 50 mm of rain in a year. People get water for [4]watering their fields from the glaciers, which [5]melt in the spring. In the last few years, the temperatures in this region went up, so glaciers began to melt too quickly. People don't get as much water as in the past.

How do they work? The ice stupas are made of [6]pipes which take water from the [7]streams high in the mountains. The water goes through the pipes, and in winter the ice stupas freeze. Their special shape allows them to melt only when it's warm in spring. Then they give about 5,000 l of water a day, which people use to water their fields.



Fog catchers

What is it? Huge nets which collect fog

Where is it? Villages around Mount Boutmezguida in the Anti-Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Other places where people use fog catchers are Chile, Peru, Ghana, Eritrea, South Africa and California, USA.

What problem do people have there? Anti-Atlas is a dry area where people don't have much drinking water. There's only 13 mm of rain a year. Women and children have to walk for four hours a day to bring drinking water for their families.

How does it work? In the Anti-Atlas, there are 140 foggy days a year. People collect water from the fog using special nets. When there's a lot of water on the nets, it gets heavy and falls into special [8]containers under the nets. This method allows people to collect about 6,000 l of water a day, which they use for drinking.



2 VOCABULARY Choose the correct definition for the highlighted words in the article.

1	A money to buy something	B a possibility to use or have
2	A unnatural, not real	B very big
3	A lake in the mountains	B ice on the mountain
4	A help plants grow	B give plants liquid
5	A when ice changes into water	B when water changes into ice
6	A a long, thin tube for water or gas	B a small box for water or gas
7	A a small area of water by the sea	B a small and narrow river
8	A a type of box for keeping things	B a place under the ground

3 Read the article again. Answer the questions.

1. Which solution for getting water do people use in different countries?
2. What do people do with the water they collect in ice stupas?
3. Why can't people in Ladakh use their traditional way of getting water?
4. Why do people in the Anti-Atlas need fog catchers?
5. How did people in the villages around Mount Boutmezguida get water when there weren't any fog catchers?
6. Which invention helps people get more water?

4 Choose the correct alternative.

The article is about the people who live in the [1]**mountains** / **islands** in India and Morocco. They live in different countries, but they have the same [2]**language** / **problem** – there is very little [3]**sun** / **rain**. There isn't enough [4]**land to grow food** / **water to drink**, so the people have invented creative ways of [5]**using** / **collecting** water. In the Ladakh, they have a system of [6]**roads** / **pipes** called stupas to collect water from [7]**fog** / **streams** in the mountains. In the Anti-Atlas mountains in Morocco, they have 140 days a year of [8]**fog** / **sun** a year and they use special [9]**nets** / **pipes** to catch the water.

LIVEWORKSHEETS