

Task: Read the following dialogue between a journalist and a young director.

■ "Behind the Scenes with Mia Grant" – Excerpt from a Film Magazine Interview

Journalist: What inspired you to write *The Last Light*?

Mia: I wanted to explore how memory works in times of war.

Journalist: Did you expect it to be so successful?

Mia: No, I didn't. I thought only a few people would understand the story.

Journalist: What are you working on now?

Mia: I'm developing a short film. It will be shot entirely in black and white.

Journalist: Will you direct it yourself?

Mia: Yes, I will. I've learned a lot from my first film.

Journalist: That final scene was powerful. Did you plan it from the start?

Mia: Actually, no. My editor suggested it. It changed the whole meaning.

3. Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Mia write *The Last Light*?

2. Was she expecting it to be popular?

3. What is she working on now?

4. Will the next film be in color?

5. Who suggested the final scene?

Vocabulary Focus

Task: Read each definition and write the correct word or phrase next to it.

Word Bank:

→ *explore – successful – editor – to direct – to suggest*

Instructions: Write the matching word from the word bank next to each definition.

1. _____ : to make or direct a movie
2. _____ : having a good result
3. _____ : a person who helps shape the film
4. _____ : to offer an idea or plan
5. _____ : to look at something carefully

5. Grammar Explanation: Reported Speech with Variety

 **Focus:** Moving from direct to reported speech using different **reporting verbs**:
say, tell, explain, admit, mention, add, reply

 **Examples from the dialogue:**

- **Mia said** she wanted to explore how memory works in times of war.
- She **admitted** she hadn't expected the success.
- She **explained** that her editor had suggested the final scene.

 **Reminder of tense changes:**

Direct speech	Reported speech
"I want..."	She said she wanted ...
"I didn't..."	She admitted she hadn't ...
"I'm working on..."	She said she was working on ...
"It will be..."	She said it would be ...
"My editor suggested"	She said her editor had suggested ...

Grammar Note: Modals in Reported Speech – No Change

When we report speech, we often change the verb tense (e.g., *present* → *past*). However, some modal verbs like "would", "could", "should", and "might" don't change in reported speech.

Example:

Direct Speech:

"I thought only a few people **would** understand the story."

Reported Speech:

She said that only a few people **would** understand the story.

- "would" stays the same — it's already a past/future modal.

 **Quick Guide: What Doesn't Change**

Modal Reported Speech

would stays **would**

could stays **could**

might stays **might**

should stays **should**

 **Practice Exercise 1: Rewrite the Interview as a Documentary Narration**

Objective: Use reported speech with a variety of reporting verbs in a creative, guided way.

 **Instructions:**

1. Read the Q&A exchanges below.
2. For each, rewrite the director's answers as a documentary-style narration using reported speech. Use the guided start to help you.

 **Example Q&A:**

Journalist: What inspired you to write *The Last Light*?

Mia: I wanted to explore how memory works in times of war.

Model Rewrite:

Mia Grant **explained** that she had wanted to explore how memory works in times of war, a theme she believed was often ignored in cinema.

Now You Try:

Q: Did you expect it to be so successful?

A: No, I didn't. I thought only a few people would understand the story.

Guided Start:

Mia **admitted** that she hadn't expected the film to be a success. She **thought** that only _____

Q: What are you working on now?

A: I'm developing a short film. It will be shot entirely in black and white.

Guided Start:

She **revealed** that she was currently working on a short film, which _____

Q: Did you plan the final scene from the start?

A: Actually, no. My editor suggested it. It changed the whole meaning.

Guided Start:

Mia **confessed** that she hadn't planned the final scene from the beginning. She **explained** that _____

Useful Reporting Verbs:

explained, admitted, revealed, confessed, pointed out, mentioned, added, stated, told the journalist

Practice Exercise 2: Film Festival Press Report

Write a press article reporting 4 fictional quotes from a director using reported speech.

Instructions:

1. Use the prompts to create a guided fictional report.
2. Use one reporting verb per sentence.
3. Follow the template below.

Template – Complete the Blanks

Context: You are writing for the blog *Cinema Now*, summarizing a director's Q&A at Cannes.

At the recent Cannes Film Festival, director Nicole Jones spoke about her new film *Nocturne*.

She _____ that the story had been inspired by her childhood memories of growing up near a factory.

The director also _____ that shooting in extremely challenging in winter was extremely challenging because the actors had to film at night.

She _____ she had made changes to the original ending just one week before filming.

Finally, she _____ that she was already working on her next project — a documentary about young female composers.