

In medical reports, we often explain what someone said or reported during treatment — but not using their exact words. We use reported speech (also called indirect speech) to do this in a formal and professional way.

◆ Grammar Focus – Reported Speech (Form & Use)

✓ How to form reported speech:

- **Change the tense** back (if the reporting verb is in the past).
- Use **“that”** to connect the sentence (optional in speech, recommended in writing).

“I **feel** pain.” > He said (that) he **felt** pain.

“I **took** aspirin.” > The patient said (that) he **had taken** aspirin.

“We **are monitoring** her.” > The doctor said (that) they **were monitoring** her.

NOW YOU.... Choose the correct verb form from the options to complete the sentence.

1. ☞ The patient said, “I have a headache.”

👉 The patient said that he (has / had) a headache.

2. ☞ The nurse said, “She is vomiting.”

👉 The nurse said that she (was / is) vomiting.

3. ☞ The doctor said, “We gave her medication at 3 p.m.”

👉 The doctor said that they (gave / had given) her medication at 3 p.m.

4. ☞ The patient said, “I didn’t eat anything today.”

👉 The patient said that he (didn’t eat / hadn’t eaten) anything that day.

5. ☞ The paramedic said, “We are bringing in a trauma case.”

👉 The paramedic said that they (were bringing / are bringing) in a trauma case.

6. ☞ The patient asked, “Can I drink water?”

👉 The patient asked if he (can / could) drink water.

7. ☞ The doctor said, “We will discharge her tomorrow.”

👉 The doctor said that they (will / would) discharge her the next day.

8. ☞ The nurse asked, “Did you take your medication this morning?”

👉 The nurse asked if the patient (took / had taken) his medication that morning.