

Lights, Camera, Questions!

Last night, journalist **Mia Torres** interviewed film director **Alex Chen** at the premiere of his new action movie. Mia asked about the challenges of filming in three different countries. Alex explained that the main difficulty was moving heavy equipment across long distances.

When asked about the actors, Alex said they had worked very hard and added that the lead actress had done most of her own stunts. He admitted that some scenes were dangerous but mentioned that safety was always their first priority.

Mia also asked if the film would win any awards. Alex replied that he hoped so because the crew had put their heart into it. Finally, he told young filmmakers to **"keep learning, keep creating, and never give up."**

Answer the questions:

1. Who interviewed Alex Chen?

2. How many countries did they film in? -

3. What was the main difficulty during filming?

4. Who did most of her own stunts?

5. What advice did Alex give to young filmmakers?

Find and underline these words or phrases in the text:

1. Premiere	a) main female actor in a film
2. Challenges	b) public first showing of a film
3. lead actress	c) people who work on making the film
4. stunts	d) dangerous or exciting actions in a film
5. safety	e) protection from danger
6. priority	f) difficulties
7. crew	g) to work with passion and effort
8. to put your heart into something	h) most important thing

Complete the sentences with the correct vocabulary:

stunts / safety / premiere / priority / crew / put your heart into something / challenges / lead actress

1. The _____ of the movie was full of celebrities.
2. Filming in the desert presented many _____.
3. The _____ trained for months before shooting began.
4. The actor performed all the dangerous _____ himself.
5. On a film set, _____ must always come first.
6. Our main _____ is to finish filming before the deadline.
7. The director praised the entire _____ for their hard work.
8. If you want to succeed, you must _____ your work.

Grammar Point – Reported Speech + Reporting Verbs

1. What is Reported Speech?

It's how we tell someone what another person said, **without** using their exact words.

Example:

- Direct: "I love movies."
- Reported: She said (that) she loved movies.

2. Tense Changes in Reported Speech:

Direct speech Reported speech

Present →	Past
Past →	Past Perfect
Will →	Would
Can →	Could
Must/Have to →	Had to

Also, pronouns and time expressions change:

- "today" → "that day"
- "tomorrow" → "the next day"

3. Common Reporting Verbs & Meanings:

Verb	Meaning / When to use	Example in Direct Speech	Example in Reported Speech
say	report words generally	"We are ready."	He said they were ready.
tell	used when the listener is mentioned	"I'll help you."	She told me she would help me.
explain	give details or reasons	"We filmed in three countries."	She explained they had filmed in three countries.

Verb	Meaning / When to use	Example in Direct Speech	Example in Reported Speech
admit	say something is true, often negative	"Some scenes were dangerous."	He admitted some scenes had been dangerous.
mention	say something in passing	"Safety is important."	He mentioned that safety was important.
add	give more information	"They worked very hard."	He added they had worked very hard.
reply	answer a question	"I hope so."	He replied that he hoped so.
advise	recommend an action	"Talk to the director."	He advised me to talk to the director.
ask	make a question	"Where do you live?"	He asked where I lived.

4. Examples from the text:

- "They worked very hard." → Alex **said** they had worked very hard.
- "Some scenes were dangerous." → He **admitted** some scenes had been dangerous.
- "Safety is our first priority." → He **mentioned** that safety was their first priority.

Grammar Practice 1 – Transformation

Rewrite the sentences in reported speech:

1. "The premiere is next week," she said.

2. "I can't come to the meeting," he told me.

3. "We filmed in three countries," she explained.

4. "The stunts were dangerous," he admitted.

5. "I will help you with the script," she said.

6. "We have to finish by Friday," they told us.

7. "I'm nervous about the interview," she said.

8. "You should talk to the director," he advised me.

9. "I have never been to a premiere," she said.

10. "Are you going to watch the movie?" he asked me.

Grammar Practice 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct option:

1. She said she _____ tired.
a) is / b) was / c) were
2. He told me they _____ in Italy last year.
a) film / b) filmed / c) had filmed
3. She explained they _____ able to finish on time.
a) were / b) are / c) will be
4. The actor admitted the stunt _____ dangerous.
a) was / b) is / c) will be
5. He mentioned they _____ safety very seriously.
a) take / b) took / c) had taken
6. She added that she _____ to New York for the premiere.
a) go / b) went / c) was going
7. He told us we _____ bring our ID cards.
a) have to / b) had to / c) has to
8. She said she _____ speak Spanish.
a) can / b) could / c) will
9. He replied that he _____ seen the film yet.
a) hasn't / b) hadn't / c) didn't
10. She told me I _____ see the director's new movie.
a) should / b) shall / c) have to

9. Closure “Quote Swap”

- Write one direct quote an actor could say in an interview.
- I write one too.
- Now, we swap and report the other's sentence using a different reporting verb.