

Unit 7

Reported Speech – Statements and Questions

RULES

- 1 In reported statements and questions, we move the verb one tense back when the reporting verb is in the past.

"I'm sure we will lose," said Beth.

Beth said that she was sure they would lose.

- 2 In reported statements, we often add the word **that**.

"She's won the award three times," announced the reporter.

The reporter announced that she had won the award three times.

- 3 In reported statements and questions, we usually change personal pronouns, time and place expressions and demonstrative and possessive adjectives and pronouns.

"I'm going to watch the game with my friends tomorrow," said Paul.

Paul mentioned that he was going to watch the game with his friends the following day.

- 4 In Yes / No and Wh- questions, the reported question is transformed into an affirmative sentence, so there is no subject-verb inversion.

"What equipment do you need?" asked my coach.

My coach wanted to know what equipment I needed.

- 5 In Yes / No questions, we begin the reported question with the words **if** or **whether**.

"Will the All Blacks win the rugby tournament?" asked Ethan.

Ethan asked if / whether the All Blacks would win the rugby tournament.

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1 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 "We have never had a rugby team like this one."
I told my friends that we **have never had** / **had never had** a rugby team like **that** / **this** one.
- 2 "Where did you put the trophy last night?"
The captain asked us where we **put** / **had put** the trophy the **following** / **previous** night.
- 3 "Our team is going to beat the visitors this Saturday."
I told the reporter that our team **would beat** / **was going to beat** the visitors **that** / **this** Saturday.
- 4 "Will it rain this afternoon?"
We wanted to know whether it **would rain** / **will rain** **this** / **that** afternoon.
- 5 "Do you think you could help us?"
Tammy asked me if I **thought** / **think** I could help her / them.

Orders, Requests and Suggestions

- 1 In reported orders and requests, we use the infinitive with **to**.

"Run around the track," ordered the coach.

The coach ordered the players to run around the track.

- 2 In negative reported orders, we use **not** + infinitive with **to**.

"Don't touch the trophy," warned the captain.

The captain warned the players not to touch the trophy.

- 3 In reported suggestions, the reporting verb can be followed by a gerund or **that** + subject + base form.

"Let's watch the match," suggested Grace.

Grace suggested watching / that we watch the match.

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2 Complete the following orders, requests and suggestions in reported speech.

- 1 "Run faster!"
The coach told him faster.
- 2 "Bring your football."
She told me my football.
- 3 "You shouldn't eat before the game."
The doctor told us before the game.
- 4 "Let's play basketball."
Our teacher suggested that basketball.
- 5 "Can you train me?"
Luke asked him.



3 Complete the sentences in reported speech.

- 1 "We're planning to go on holiday next June."
Jack stated that
- 2 "Did you get tickets for the tennis tournament?"
Henry asked us
- 3 "Be on the playing field at 8.30 sharp!"
The coach ordered us
- 4 "Owen, how are you coping at your new school?"
Dan wanted to know
- 5 "Can you bring the equipment tomorrow?"
Gail asked if
- 6 "Let's watch athletics on TV tonight."
Simon suggested
- 7 "I ate a healthy lunch."
Beth said that