

6.2

GRAMMAR Reported speech



I can report what somebody else has said.

1 **CLASS VOTE** If a person can't see different colours, why is it difficult to do the things below?

cook choose clothes drive a car read a Geography book

2 Look at the photo in the text. What sort of test do you think this is?

When twelve-year-old George said that he was getting headaches at school, his dad made an appointment for an eye test. The optician showed him some coloured images and asked him what numbers he could see, but George found the task difficult. The optician then asked him what his plans were for the future. George said that he hoped to be a pilot. 'That might be difficult,' said the doctor, 'because you're colour-blind'. She told George that he probably wouldn't be able to fly planes in the future. He was very disappointed.

Later at home, his mum told him that colour-blindness ran in the family and said his grandad had the same problem, but that he had learned to live well with it. She said that he couldn't tell the difference between some colours. George asked if that was why his grandad didn't drive a car. 'No,' said his mum. 'You can drive when you're colour blind. He just never enjoyed driving.'



3 Read the text quickly. Why did George go to the doctor?

4 Study the Grammar box. Find more examples of reported speech in the text.

Grammar Reported statements and questions

Present Simple → Past Simple

'I have a headache.' **He** said (that) **he had** a headache.

Present Continuous → Past Continuous

'I'm getting better.' **She** said (that) **she was** getting better.

Past Simple → Past Perfect

'I wanted to be a doctor.' **He** said (that) **he had wanted** to be a doctor.

will → would

'My mum **will** do it.' **He** said (that) **his mum would** do it.

can → could

'I **can't** see anything.' **She** said (that) **she couldn't** see anything.

Questions

Do you work in a hospital? **She** asked me if **I worked** in a hospital.

What time is it? **He** asked **what time** it was.

Other changes

We often change pronouns, time phrases and place adverbials.

now → then here → there this month → that month

yesterday → the previous day/the day before

tomorrow → the following day

'My brother **was here yesterday**.' **The girl** said **her brother had been there** the day before.

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5 Complete the sentences.

1 'The doctor **was** very kind.'

I told him that the doctor **had been** very kind.

2 'The medicine **tastes** horrible, but it **will help**.'

He said that the medicine **_____** horrible, but that it **_____**.

3 'I **tried** to sleep but I **wasn't tired**.'

She said that she **_____** to sleep, but that she **_____** tired.

4 'Anne's **visiting** her aunt in hospital, so she **can't come**.'

I told her that Anne **_____** her aunt in hospital, so she **_____**.

6 Rewrite the questions in reported speech.

1 'What time **does** the doctor **finish**?' I **asked**.

I **asked** **what time** the doctor **finished**.

2 'When **are** they **leaving**?' Rachel **asked**.

3 'Does it **hurt**?' the nurse **asked**.

4 'When **did** you **take** the medicine?' he **asked me**.

5 'Did Emma **see** the doctor?' I **asked**.

6 'Can I **make** an **appointment**?' Liam **asked**.

7 'What time **did** you **call** Dr Bower?' I **asked her**.

8 'Are you **feeling** better?' Lindsay **asked me**.

7 Work in pairs. Think of the last time somebody told you some important news. What did they say? How did you feel?

My friend **told me** she was going to live in a different town. I was really sad.



Workbook

1 Match direct statements and questions 1–6 with reported speech a–f.

- 1 'I'm having a check-up.'
- 2 'Are you having a check-up?'
- 3 'I'll have a check-up.'
- 4 'I had a check-up.'
- 5 'What time is your check-up?'
- 6 'You can have a check-up.'

- a She told me she would have a check-up.
- b She said I could have a check-up.
- c She asked me what time my check-up was.
- d She said she was having a check-up.
- e She asked me if I was having a check-up.
- f She said she'd had a check-up.

2 Choose the correct option.

- 1 My dad asked me what time was my appointment / my appointment was.
- 2 She said she had seen the doctor the day before / yesterday.
- 3 The doctor said he will / would take my blood pressure.
- 4 Charles asked us if we were / were we going on holiday this year.
- 5 After the injury, Linda said she can't / couldn't feel her arm.

3 Order the words to make reported statements and questions.

- 1 they / me / how often / the medicine / took / asked / I They asked me how often I took the medicine.
- 2 James / wanted / if / I / asked / to go / me / for pizza
- 3 me / told / Julia / was feeling / she / bad
- 4 if / Carl / the doctor / asked / help / would / the medicine

4 Rewrite the statements and questions in reported speech.

Who do you think will win the race?

- 1 She asked us who we thought would win the race.

I want to be a scientist.

- 2 He said _____.

I went to the doctor yesterday.

- 3 She said _____.

What can we do to help Gary pass his exams?

- 4 He asked us _____.

I'm having a party this weekend.

- 5 She told us _____.

Do you study Biology at school?

- 6 He asked me _____.

5 Read the text. Choose the correct answers.

The other day my sister Charis and her husband told me some excellent news. They said they ¹ a baby, and that I ² an uncle! They said they ³ the week before, but wanted to be sure everything was OK before they told me. The doctor said he ⁴ worried at first because my sister ⁵ ill recently, but he checked carefully and the baby is healthy. They asked me ⁶ any ideas about her name. I told them I ⁷ to call her Carla because my name's Carl. Unfortunately, they said they ⁸ that idea!

1 a had	b had had	c were having
2 a are soon	b would soon be	c was soon
3 a would find out	b had found out	c were finding out
4 a had been	b will be	c would be
5 a is	b will be	c had been
6 a if I was having	b if I had	c have I had
7 a had wanted	b wanted	c would want
8 a didn't like	b weren't liking	c hadn't liked