

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?**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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?

And YOU

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Workbook

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

1 [d] '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 docto *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

LIVEWORKSHEETS