

Reported Speech

12B reported (or indirect) speech

direct speech

"I love you."
"I've just arrived."
"We'll come at eight."
"I don't want to go to the party."

reported speech

He said (that) he loved me. **(S 23 »)**
She said (that) she had just arrived.
He told me (that) they would come at eight.
Jack told Anna (that) he didn't want to go to the party.

- Use reported speech to report (to tell somebody) what another person said.
- We often introduce reported speech with *said* or *told* (+ person).
- After *said* or *told* **that** is optional, e.g., *He said (that) he loved me.*
- Pronouns often change in reported speech, e.g., *I* changes to *he* or *she*.
"I'm tired." *She told me (that) she was tired.*

- Verb tenses change like this:

direct speech	reported speech
"I can help you." (simple present)	He said (that) he could help me. (simple past)
"I'm watching TV." (present continuous)	She said (that) she was watching TV. (past continuous)
"I'll call you." (will)	He told me (that) he would call me. (would)
"I met a girl." (simple past)	John told me (that) he had met a girl. (past perfect)
"I've broken my leg." (present perfect)	Sara said (that) she had broken her leg. (past perfect)

say or tell?

You can use *said* or *told* in reported speech, but they are used differently.

You can't use *said* with an object or pronoun.

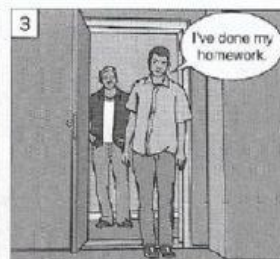
He **said** (that) he loved me. **NOT** He ~~said me~~ (that) he loved me.

You **must** use *told* with an object.

He **told me** (that) he loved me. **NOT** He ~~told~~ (that) he loved me.



a Change the direct speech to reported speech.

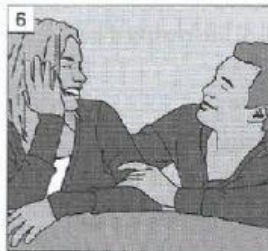
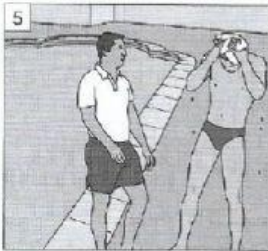
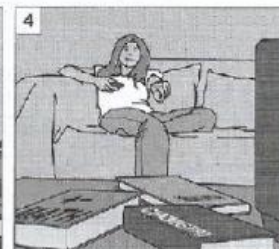
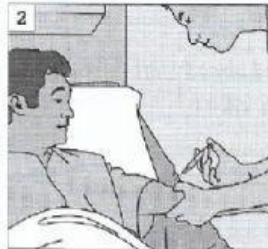
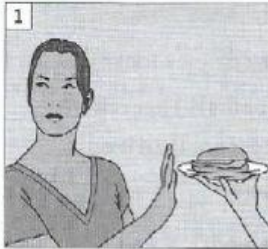


- 1 She said that she couldn't see anything.
- 2 He told her that _____.
- 3 He told his father that _____.
- 4 The man said that _____.

- 5 She said that _____.
- 6 He told his wife that _____.
- 7 He told her that _____.
- 8 She said that _____.



b Change the reported speech to direct speech.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 She said that she wasn't very hungry.
"I'm not very hungry." | 5 He told the instructor that he couldn't swim. |
| 2 The nurse told the man that it wouldn't hurt. | 6 He told her that he would always love her. |
| 3 He told the police that it was his mother's car. | 7 They said that they wanted to check out. |
| 4 She said that she had finished her homework. | 8 He told the woman that he didn't speak English. |

2 VOCABULARY say or tell?

a Circle the correct words.

- 1 Her husband **said** / **told** that he was working late.
- 2 She **said** / **told** me that she wasn't happy.
- 3 They **said** / **told** us that they were getting married.
- 4 You **said** / **told** that she didn't like loud music.
- 5 I **said** / **told** you that I had a new laptop.
- 6 We **said** / **told** that we were going to be late.
- 7 Anna **said** / **told** you that she didn't have a car.
- 8 I **said** / **told** her that John was busy.
- 9 He **said** / **told** that we had to do exercise five.
- 10 You **said** / **told** that she had called Mike this morning.