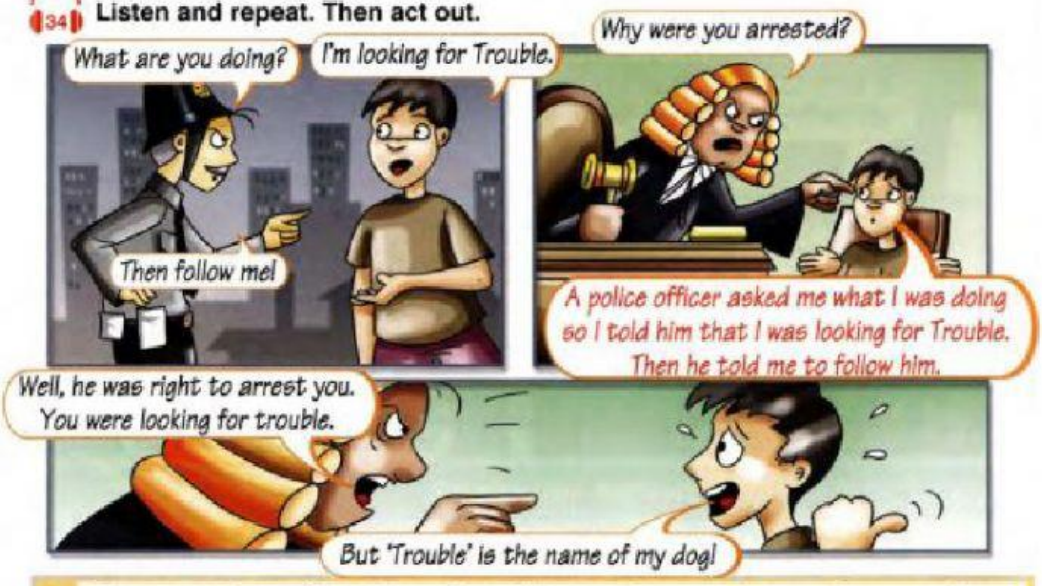
16 Reported Speech

34 **Listen and repeat. Then act out.**



We can report: A. statements B. questions C. commands, requests, suggestions

Reported Statements

- **To report statements we use a reporting verb (say, tell, advise, explain, promise, etc.) followed by a that-clause. In spoken English that may be omitted.**
- **Pronouns and possessive adjectives change according to the meaning.**
  Direct speech: He said, "**I** can't fix **it myself**."
  Reported speech: He said **he** couldn't fix **it himself**.
- **Certain words change as follows :**

Direct speech	this / these	here	come
Reported speech	that / those	there	go

"**This** is my book," he said. He said **that** was his book.

Note that:
can changes to **could**
will changes to **would**
may changes to **might**
must changes to **had to**

- **When the reporting verb is in the past, the verb tenses change as follows:**

Direct speech	Reported speech
Present Simple "I **want to** go to bed early," she said.	**Past Simple** She said she **wanted to** go to bed early.
Present Continuous "She**'s speaking** to Joe," he said.	**Past Continuous** He said she **was speaking** to Joe.
Present Perfect "I**'ve bought** you some flowers," she said.	**Past Perfect** She said she **had bought** me some flowers.
Past Simple "He **lost** all the money," she said.	**Past Perfect** She said he **had lost** all the money.
Future "I'**ll see** you later," he said.	**Conditional** He said he **would see** me later.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- **Time expressions change as follows:**

Direct speech	Reported speech
tonight, today, this week / month / year	**that night, that day, that week / month / year**
now	**then, at that time, at once, immediately**
now that	**since**
yesterday, last night / week / month / year	**the day before, the previous night / week / month / year**
tomorrow, next week / month / year	**the day after, the next / following day, the next / following week / month / year**
two days / months / years, etc., ago	**two days / months / years, etc., before**
"He arrived **last week**," she said.	She said (that) he had arrived **the previous week**.

- **There are no changes in verb tenses when the reporting verb is in the Present, Future or Present Perfect tense or when the sentence expresses something which is always true.**

Direct speech	She'll **say**, "I can do it."	"The Earth **is** round," said the teacher.
Reported speech	She'll **say** (that) she can do it.	The teacher said (that) the Earth **is** round.

- **The Past Continuous does not usually change.**

Direct speech	"I **was travelling** to Brighton while she **was flying** to the USA," he said.
Reported speech	He said he **was travelling** to Brighton while she **was flying** to the USA.

- **Certain modal verbs do not change in Reported speech. These are: would, could, might, should, ought to.**

Direct speech	"He might visit us," Mum said.
Reported speech	Mum said (that) he **might** visit us.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

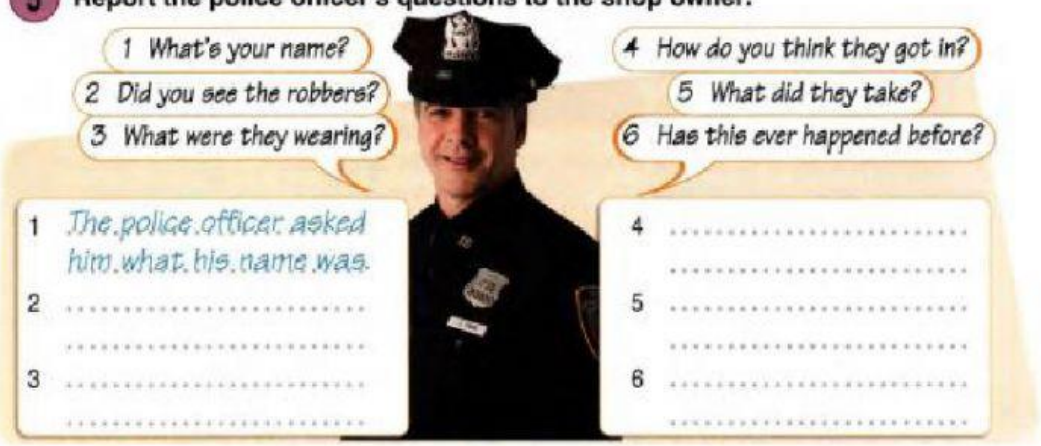
16 Reported Speech

2 **Report what the guests said at a wedding last Saturday.**



1 Miss Moore said (that) they would make a lovely couple.
2 Mr Smith .....
3 Mrs Jones .....
4 Mr Roberts .....
5 Mr Clarke .....
6 Miss Mayall .....

5 **Report the police officer's questions to the shop owner.**



1 The police officer asked him what his name was.
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

16 Reported Speech

Reported Commands / Requests / Suggestions

To report commands, requests, suggestions, etc. we use a reporting verb (order, ask, tell, beg, suggest,* etc.) followed by to infinitive or not to infinitive.

(***suggest** is followed by the **-ing form**. e.g. He said, "Shall we go by bus?" He suggested **going** by bus.)

Direct speech	He said to me, "Get out of the house!" She said to me, "Do me a favour, please."	He said to me, "Don't touch it!" She said to him, "Please, please don't hurt me."
Reported speech	He ordered me **to get out** of the house. She asked me **to do** her a favour.	He told me **not to touch** it. She begged him **not to hurt** her.

6 **Use the verbs in the list in the *past simple* to complete the sentences.**

tell **suggest** **beg** **ask** **order**

1 "Close the door, please," Ann said to Jack.
Ann ....*asked*.... Jack to close the door.

2 "Let's go shopping," she said to me.
She ..... going shopping.

3 "Please, please don't go," he said to Mary.
He ..... Mary not to go.

4 "Get out of the car!" he said to them.
He ..... them to get out of the car.

5 "Don't touch anything," she said to him.
She ..... him not to touch anything.

7 **Report what Mrs Lane told her daughter, Sue, to do.**



1 *Mrs Lane told Sue not to open the door to anyone.*.....
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....
7 .....
8 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reporting Verbs

Reporting verb	Direct speech	Reported speech
***to* infinitive**		
offer	"Shall I carry the bags?"	He **offered to carry** the bags.
promise	"I promise I'll be back early."	He **promised to be** back early.
refuse	"No, I won't buy you a computer."	She **refused to buy** me a computer.
+sb+*to* infinitive		
advise	"You should see a doctor."	He **advised** me **to see** a doctor.
ask	"Could you feed the dog?"	She **asked** me **to feed** the dog.
beg	"Please, please help me!"	She **begged** me **to help** her.
order	"Go to your room."	She **ordered** me **to go** to my room.
warn	"Don't play with matches."	She **warned** me **not to play** with matches.
+*-ing* form		
suggest	"Let's visit Sally."	"She **suggested visiting** Sally."
+that		
explain	"I'm going to stay with my sister."	She **explained that** she was going to stay with her sister.

16 Reported Speech

9 Choose a reporting verb and turn the following into *reported speech*.

advised **asked** **suggested** **ordered** **explained** **promised** **offered** **refused**

1 "I think you should exercise more," the doctor said to me.
The doctor advised me to exercise more.

2 "I will not answer your questions," the actor said to him.
.....

3 "I really will phone this evening," he said.
.....

4 "Let's go to the cinema," he said to her.
.....

5 "Could you do something for me?" he said to her.
.....

6 "Go to your room immediately and do your homework," she said to her son.
.....

7 "You will be paid twice a month," her boss said.
.....

8 "Would you like me to drive you into town?" she said to me.
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

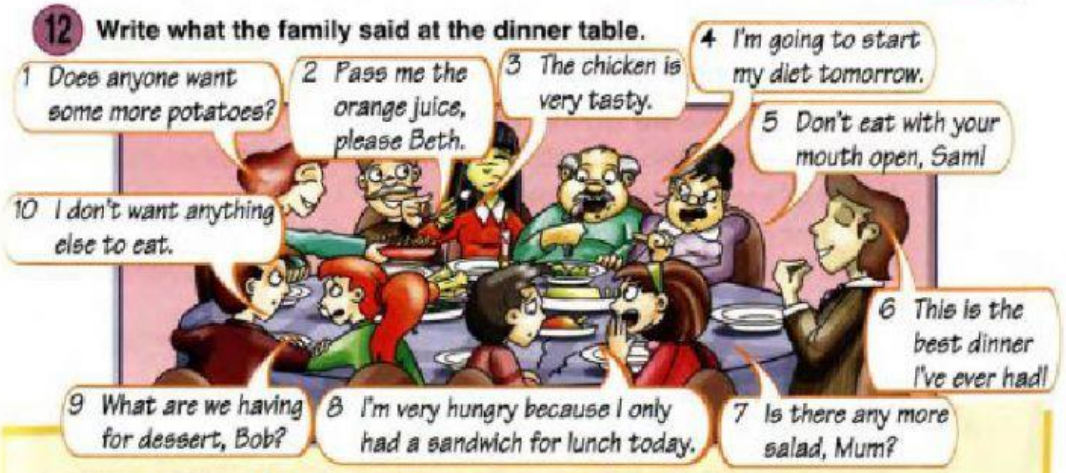
10 **Match the sentences in column A to the correct reporting verb in column B. Then rewrite the sentences in *reported speech* as in the example:**

1	c	"No, I won't do it," she said.
2		"Let's go for a walk," he said.
3		"Please, please don't hurt me!" she said to the robber.
4		"Don't go near the campfire because it's dangerous," she said to Ben.
5		"I'll buy you a bicycle for your birthday," his father said.

a warn
b beg
c refuse
d promise
e suggest

1 She refused to do it.
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....

12 **Write what the family said at the dinner table.**



1 Mother asked if anyone wanted some more potatoes.
2 Father .....
3 Beth .....
4 Grandfather .....
5 Grandmother .....
6 Tim .....
7 Jean .....
8 Mark .....
9 Helen .....
10 Bob .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

16 Reported Speech

Whisper!

Students, in turn, whisper an untrue statement to the person sitting next to them. When a student can't report a statement or think of a new one he/she loses his/her turn.



S1: (whispers) I'm going on holiday next week.
S2: He said he was going on holiday the following week. (whispers) I have never eaten cheese, etc.

Speaking Activity

(Reporting people's words)

Work in groups. Imagine you are watching TV. Your partners are a reporter and a famous singer. Listen to their interview, then report it to the class. Use *reported speech*. Talk about:

- how old / start singing
- when / make first album
- who / favourite singer
- how many songs / new album has
- which / favourite city
- how often / go there
- what / like doing in free time

A: How old were you when you started singing?
B: I started singing at the age of twelve, etc.

The reporter asked the famous singer how old she had been when she had started singing. She said she had started singing at the age of twelve, etc.

Writing Activity

Imagine you are the reporter in the Speaking Activity. Write a short article for the magazine you work for using the information from the Speaking Activity.

This week's interview is with Mirella Rossi, the famous singer. I first asked her how old she

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 **Write what the people said.**



1 Joe .asked Sally if she could pass him the ketchup.....
2 James .....
3 Chen .....
4 Peter .....
5 Ted .....
6 Sally .....
7 Ricardo .....
8 Paul .....

5 **Complete the sentences using the words given in bold.**

1 Don't touch that wire," he said to me.
WARNED He ..warned me not to touch that wire.....
2 "Where is my book?" she said to him.
ASKED She .....
3 "You should stop eating junk food," my friend said to me.
ADVISED My friend .....
4 "Put your hands up," the police officer said to them.
ORDERED The police officer .....
5 "Shall I help you with your homework?" my brother said to me.
OFFERED My brother .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS