Reported speech

When we report that someone said, we usually change the tense.
I'm going to cycle along the River Rhine'.
He said (that) **he was going to cycle** along the River Rhine.

'**I spent** a month in Australia'.
He said (that) **he had spent** a month in Australia.

We can use the verbs say and tell to report what someone said. We use tell if we want specify who the person was talking to.
Danielle **said** that the plane was late.
Danielle **told her brother / him** that the plane was late.

Personal pronouns, possessive adjectives and time expressions often change.
'I saw your brother in Paris last week'
She said that **she** had seen **my** brother in Paris **the previous week**.

Reporting orders, request & advice

We use ask, tell and advise + object + to + infinitive
when we report orders, instructions, request or advice.
'Hurry up!'
He **told me to** hurry up.
'Can yo help me?'
He **asked me to help** him.
'You ought to learn some Portuguese'.
She **advised me to learn** some Portuguese.

We use not + to in the negative.
¡You mustn't swim out too far'.
She **told / advised me not to swim** out too far.

Reported questions

When we report yes / no questions, we use if or whether, and the word order is like a statement.
Josh : 'Is she Australian?'
Josh asked (me) if she was Australian.
NOT … if was she Australian.
We don't use the auxiliary verbs do / did in reported questions.
Sandro : Do you live in the centre?
Sandro asked (me) if I lived in the centre.
NOT … if i did live in the centre.

For wh - questions, we put the question word (usually beginning with wh -) before the subject.
Danny : 'Who are you going with?'
Danny asked (me) who I was going with.

Emily : 'Why did you go there?'
Emily asked (me) why I had gone there.

LIVEWORKSHEETS