

Reported speech

Sometimes we want to tell somebody what another person said. We call this reported speech. We can report another person's words or our own words.

We usually change the tense of the verb from the present to the past, like this:

present simple → past simple present continuous → past continuous

Direct speech

It's broken.

I'm not staying at home.

Reported speech

*The doctor said it **was** broken.*

*Tommy said he **wasn't** staying at home.*

In reported speech we usually need to change the pronoun.

You have to go to school. → *Dad told me I had to go to school.*

1 Tick (✓) the correct boxes.

1 Who felt ill?

The nurse ☐

The girl ☒



2 Who said, 'I feel ill'?

The nurse ☐

The girl ☐

3 Who was hungry?

The boy ☐

Grandpa ☐



4 Who said, 'I'm hungry'?

The boy ☐

Grandpa ☐

2 Circle the correct answers.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 There's some juice.
She said there <u>is</u> / was some juice. | 2 I haven't got a headache.
He said he doesn't / didn't have a headache. |
| 3 We're visiting Jess.
They said they visited / were visiting Jess. | 4 I'm doing my homework.
She said she was doing / did her homework. |
| 5 It's nice.
They said it <u>is</u> / was nice. | 6 I'm not ill!
He said he wasn't / isn't ill. |

3 Change the reported speech to direct speech.

- The teacher said she loved teaching.
I love teaching.
- Billy said he liked playing football.

- Mr Elliott said he didn't like watching football on TV.

- Grandma and Grandpa said they weren't listening to the radio.

- Milly said she didn't surf the Internet very often.

- Jamie said he was going to France.

- Amy said she was going to a restaurant.

- Mrs Clarke said she had to go to the office.

4 Complete the reported speech sentences. Use information from the box.

The train is very late. The food's coming. I often travel to the rainforest.
I invent machines. I need some bandages. I like English best.

- The waitress said the food was coming.
- The doctor said he _____
- The professor said he _____
- The pupil said she _____
- The explorer said he _____
- The passenger said _____

Shawston News

Swimming pool closed

Shawston swimming pool was closed after a young swimmer had an accident during a school visit last week.

Fiona Thompson, aged 13, hurt her head when she dived to the bottom of the pool. Her swimming teacher looked after her and gave first aid before the ambulance arrived to take Fiona to hospital.

Fiona **told me** she was resting in hospital and **said** she was happy about going home the next day. Fiona's Mum and Dad **told me** they were grateful to the teacher who helped her. Head teacher of Fiona's school, Oliver Macdonald, **said** the accident showed how important it was to have first aid training.

By Steven Ross



Said and told and time words in reported speech

Said and told

We can use both **said** and **told** in reported speech. We use **said** if we do not say who the person was talking to.

*Fiona **said** she was resting in hospital.*

We use **told** when we mention who the person was talking to. We usually put a name or an object pronoun after **tell**.

*Fiona **told Steven Ross** she was resting in hospital. Fiona **told me** she was resting in hospital.*

Remember the object pronouns are **me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them**.

Time words in reported speech

When we use reported speech, time words also change.

Direct speech *Fiona said, 'I'm happy about going home **tomorrow**'.*

Reported speech *Fiona said she was happy about going home **the next day**.*

Direct speech

tonight
today
this week/month/year/evening
tomorrow
next week/month/year
now

Reported speech

that night
that day
that week/month/year/evening
the next day
the next week/month/year
then.

5 Circle the correct answers.

- 1 The doctor **said** / **told** reporters Fiona was well.
- 2 Fiona **said** / **told** she was planning to go swimming again soon.
- 3 I **told** / **said** her she was very lucky.
- 4 The manager **told** / **said** the swimming pool was open again.
- 5 Fiona **said** / **told** she wanted to go back to school soon.
- 6 Fiona's mum and dad **told** / **said** Fiona she had to stay in bed.

6 Complete the sentences. Write **said or **told**.**

- 1 Tanya told me she was watching a film that evening.
- 2 Zoe _____ the weather was too bad to go out.
- 3 Our parents _____ us we were going on holiday.
- 4 The teacher _____ Lily her homework was very good.
- 5 She _____ she was going out later.
- 6 They _____ they weren't hungry yet.
- 7 Dad _____ Dora was ill.
- 8 Mum _____ Edward he looked better.

7 Complete the sentences. Change the tense and use the right time words.

- 1 There's no more work today.
He said there was no more work that day.
- 2 The programme is on tonight.
She said _____
- 3 The train is leaving now.
The man said _____
- 4 It's a hot summer this year.
The TV announcer said _____
- 5 I'm going home next week.
Helen said _____
- 6 The sun's out now.
Dad said _____

8 Read the sentences. Complete the table.

- 1 Mum told me to give the cake to her.
- 2 Jack said Toby was faster than him.
- 3 Oscar told me the teacher gave him a good mark for homework.
- 4 Suzy's mum told Ted he played football better than Billy.
- 5 Harry said Billy was talking to him.
- 6 Frank and Jason told Gary he was better at English than them.
- 7 You told me I was playing well.
- 8 Rob said Jasper was going to play football with him.

	Speaker	Listener	Direct speech
1	Mum	me	Give the cake to me.
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

9 Read the text. Write direct speech sentences.

A day with an ambulance driver

I wanted to find out what it is like to be an ambulance driver, so last Tuesday I went to speak to Gary Chapman. ¹ Gary said he normally got up at 7 o'clock, but ² he was getting up at half past four every morning that week. ³ Gary told me it was busy that day. ⁴ He said he was tired, but ⁵ he was going to sleep well that night. ⁶ He said he liked helping people and ⁷ he told me he loved his job. ⁸ I told him I thought I wanted to be an ambulance driver!

- 1 I normally get up at 7 o'clock.
- 3 _____
- 5 _____
- 7 _____

- 2 _____
- 4 _____
- 6 _____
- 8 _____

10 Write sentences with reported speech.



Lewis said he was going to play for the
football team the next week.



Tanya and Helen _____



Milly told Becky _____



Becky _____



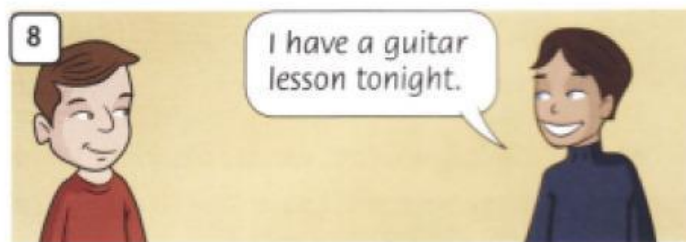
Toby _____



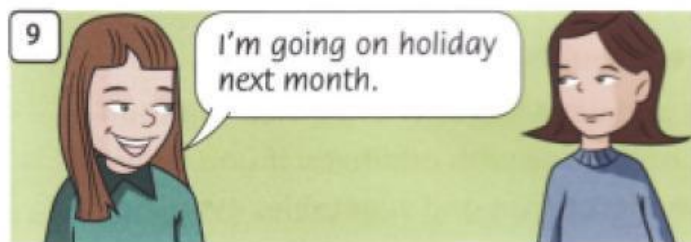
Max _____ Toby _____



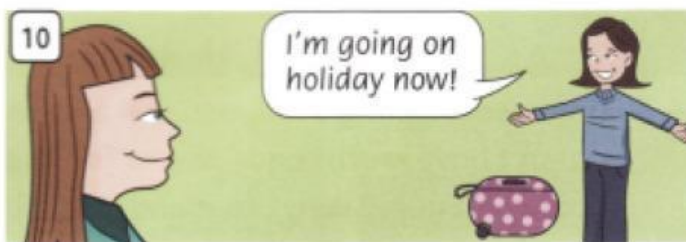
George _____ Jason _____



Jason _____



Suzy _____ Heidi _____



Heidi _____