9.2 Grammar

Reported speech: statements

1 Look at the posts. What is a debating club?

Debating Club



Jack

We're **starting** a debating club.



Daisy

I'm looking for some good topics to discuss.



Mrs Walker

That's a great idea!



Tom

We **need** to advertise it.

2 9.5 Listen to Daisy talking about the debating club and look at the posts in Exercise 1 again. What do you notice about the verbs in bold above and the verbs in the recording?

3 9.6 Read the interview quickly. What topics are chosen for the debates?

MILL HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWS
BY KATE BRANDON

'New Debating Club!'
Interview with Peter Brown, Year 11 student.

Tell us about the new debating club. How did it all start?

Last term the pupils of Year 11 told their teachers that they wanted to start a debating club. The teachers said that they liked the idea, so now each week we run a debate.

What are the rules?

One team has to agree and the other team has to disagree. Then the audience decide which team is the winner.

What about the topics of debates?

The teachers said we needed interesting topics, so we made a list. We have a mix of serious and silly topics. Last week the audience said they wanted to discuss something lighter.

So, what topic did you choose?

'Pasta or Pizza: which is best?' Our teachers told us to research our speeches. The audience can ask us difficult questions, so it's important to have a good plan and ... stay calm.

How can you join the club?

Just come to our debate. The teachers told us that we could have as many members as we wanted. 'The more members, the more interesting debates!' they said. So, join us!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Study the Grammar box. Find more examples of reported speech in the interview. Then change the reported statements to direct speech: what were each person's exact words?

GRAMMAR Reported speech: statements

Present Simple → Past Simple
'You need a list of interesting topics.'
Teachers said (that) we needed a list of interesting topics.

Present Continuous → Past Continuous
'We're starting a debating club.'
Pupils told their teachers (that) they were starting a debating club.

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5 9.7 Choose the correct option. Listen and check.

Max told Sara that he [1]*is planning / was planning* to join the debating club. Sara said that she [2]*doesn't want / didn't want* to join. She said that she [3]*wasn't / isn't* keen on speaking in public and then added, 'I [4]*can't / couldn't* come anyway because I [5]*went / go* to dance classes on Tuesday.' Then Max said that the next debate [6] *is / was* 'Pasta or Pizza'. Sara said that it [7]*sounds / sounded* a lot of fun and she told him she [8]*wanted / want* to give it a try.

6 Complete the reported statements.

1 'Uniforms aren't important.'
Nicola said uniforms *weren't* important.
2 'I disagree.'
Jared said he _____.
3 We don't want to discuss sports.
They told me they _____ to discuss sports.
4 I'm planning a speech about pasta.
Ethan said he _____ a speech about pasta.
5 Julia doesn't know what pizza to order.
Mum said Julia _____ what pizza to order.
6 I'm not coming to the debate on Friday.
I told them I _____ to the debate on Friday.

YOUR WORLD

7 Write a sentence that someone has said in the past week. In pairs, take turns to report what that person said. Use *said* or *told*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS