

Reported speech



Language focus

Use **reported speech** to tell someone what another person said.

Chen said that **she came from Hong Kong**.

In reported speech there are some changes to the grammar of the sentence. The basic idea is that what is in the present in direct speech is in the past in reported speech.

Direct speech

I'm tired.

I'm not going to the party.

Notice how the pronouns and determiners change from direct to reported speech.

You have to study for **your** test.

The conjunction **that** is used in reported speech, but it can be left out.

Sally said **that** she passed all of her exams or Sally said she passed all of her exams.

Reported speech

*My brother said that **he was** tired.*

*Mirko said that **he wasn't going to the party**.*

*Mum said that **I** had to study for **my** test.*

1 Complete the sentences with the verbs from the box in the correct form.

be play like want ~~listen~~ not want

- 1 He said that he listened to music every day.
- 2 We said we _____ the new English teacher.
- 3 She said that she _____ anything to drink because she wasn't thirsty.
- 4 They said that they _____ football in the park every Saturday morning.
- 5 You said you _____ to go to the cinema.
- 6 I said that I _____ from Russia.

2 Circle the correct verbs forms.

- | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| 1 We need some milk.
He said that they (need) some milk. | a needing | b needed |
| 2 I don't enjoy watching sport on the TV.
He said that he (not enjoy) watching sport on the TV. | a didn't enjoy | b hasn't enjoyed |
| 3 I have to go to bed.
He said that he (have) to go to bed. | a had | b having |
| 4 We're going now.
They said that they (go) now. | a went | b were going |
| 5 I'm watching a film.
She said that she (watch) a film. | a was watching | b watched |
| 6 This is a brilliant game.
She said that it (be) a brilliant game. | a was | b were |

3 Change the reported speech to direct speech.

- Millie said that she didn't like watching TV.
I don't like watching TV.
- Carl said that he was reading an interesting book.

- Tanya said that she enjoyed writing stories.

- Iain said that he wanted to go to the cinema.

- Brigit said that she was from the USA.

4 Change the direct speech to reported speech using *that*.

- I love video games.
Martin said that he loved video games.
- I can't do the Maths homework.
Robert said _____
- My favourite food is spaghetti.
Carly said _____
- I'm having a great time!
Lola said _____
- I don't understand.
Mia said _____