



REPORTED SPEECH

(Present Tenses)

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____



GRAMMAR NOTES

When we report what someone said earlier, the present tense usually changes to the past tense. We change the verb and sometimes the pronoun. We use "said" to report the words.

Present tense → Past tense

Rule	Direct speech	Reported speech
Present simple (regular verbs)	like / play	liked / played
Present simple (irregular verbs)	eat / go / have	ate / went / had
Present simple negative	don't / doesn't	didn't
Verb "be"	am / is are	was were
Present continuous	am / is / are + -ing	was / were + -ing
Pronouns	I / we / my	he or she / they / his or her



REMEMBER

- "Said" is already in the past tense.
- Change the pronoun to match the person who was speaking.

EXAMPLES

- Direct:** "I **eat** nasi lemak every morning," said Aiman.
Reported: Aiman said he **ate** nasi lemak every morning.
- Direct:** "I **don't drink** teh tarik," said Mei Lin.
Reported: Mei Lin said she **didn't drink** teh tarik.
- Direct:** "My school **is** near the park," said Danish.
Reported: Danish said his school **was** near the park.
- Direct:** "We **are visiting** the pasar malam," said Siti and Hana.
Reported: Siti and Hana said they **were visiting** the pasar malam.
- Direct:** "I **play** badminton after school," said Arif.
Reported: Arif said he **played** badminton after school.



Exercises

Read the notes first. Do each question carefully.

A

Complete the reported sentence with the correct verb form.

- "I am hungry," said Aisyah.
Aisyah said she _____ (be) hungry.
- "I play chess," said Ravi.
Ravi said he _____ (play) chess.
- "I eat rice at lunch," said Farah.
Farah said she _____ (eat) rice at lunch.
- "I am reading a comic," said Hakim.
Hakim said he _____ (read) a comic.
- "I don't like spicy food," said Mei.
Mei said she _____ (not like) spicy food.

B

Choose the correct answer.

- "I am at home," said Lina.
Lina said she _____ at home. **A** is **B** was **C** were
- "We play netball," said the girls.
The girls said they _____ netball. **A** play **B** played **C** playing
- "I go to school by bus," said Amir.
Amir said he _____ to school by bus. **A** went **B** go **C** goes
- "I am cooking," said Mum.
Mum said she _____ cooking. **A** is **B** were **C** was
- "I don't eat fish," said Danial.
Danial said he _____ eat fish. **A** doesn't **B** didn't **C** don't

C

Match each direct sentence (1–3) to a reported sentence (A–C). Put the correct letter beside each number.

Direct speech

- ☐ 1. "I love mangoes," said Arman.
- ☐ 2. "We are playing outside," said the children.
- ☐ 3. "My bag is blue," said Nabila.

Reported speech

- A.** The children said they were playing outside.
- B.** Nabila said her bag was blue.
- C.** Arman said he loved mangoes.

D

Write 2 reported sentences about what a family member said today. Use "said" and change the verb and pronoun.

1. _____
2. _____

