REPORTED SPEECH

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INTRODUCTION

- **Direct speech** is what people actually say.
- **Indirect speech** (reported speech) is how we later report the words the speaker originally used.
- To make this **changes** appropriately, we have to consider the context in which we report: who are we speaking to, who said what and if what was said is still true.
- **Reported speech** includes reports of what was written and thought as well as spoken.
USE

• **Direct speech is used:**
  • To dramatise
  • To create a sense of immediacy
  • Because the precise words used were important

• It is **found** in newspaper reports, fiction and oral narrative
**USE**

- **Reported speech** is used:
  - When we are interested not in the words that were chosen, but in the information given.

- It is **found** in newspaper reports, fiction, talking or writing about conversation, reports, articles or speeches.
USE

• Occasionally, we don't need to change the present tense into the past if the information in direct speech is still true (but this is only for things which are general facts, and even then usually we like to change the tense):

Direct speech: The sky is blue.
Reported speech: She said (that) the sky *is/was* blue.
PATTERNS OF REPORTING VERBS

- **SAY:**

  \[\text{say + (that) + clause}\]

  e.g. She said (that) she had already eaten.
  (The direct speech for this is "I've already eaten".)
PATTERNS OF REPORTING VERBS

- **TELL**

  \[
  \text{tell} + \text{someone} + (\text{that}) + \text{clause}
  \]
  e.g. I told John (that) I had seen the new film.
  (The direct speech for this is "I've seen the new film".)

When we are reporting orders, we can also use another pattern with 'tell':

\[
\text{tell} + \text{someone} + \text{to} + \text{infinitive}
\]
  e.g. She told the children to go to bed.
PATTERNS OF REPORTING VERBS

• **ASK**

We use 'ask' to report questions or requests. For questions we use the pattern:

\[
\text{ask} + \text{someone} + \text{if} / \text{question word} + \text{clause}
\]

e.g. I asked my boss if I could leave early. She asked them where the station was.

For requests we use the pattern:

\[
\text{ask} + \text{someone} + \text{to} + \text{infinitive}
\]

e.g. I asked Lucy to pass me the salt.
## TENSE CHANGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Direct Speech</th>
<th>Reported Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>present simple</td>
<td>I like ice cream</td>
<td>She said (that) she liked ice cream.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present continuous</td>
<td>I am living in London</td>
<td>She said (that) she was living in London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past simple</td>
<td>I bought a car</td>
<td>She said (that) she had bought a car OR She said (that) she bought a car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past continuous</td>
<td>I was walking along the street</td>
<td>She said (that) she had been walking along the street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present perfect</td>
<td>I haven't seen Julie</td>
<td>She said (that) she hadn't seen Julie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past perfect*</td>
<td>I had taken English lessons before</td>
<td>She said (that) she had taken English lessons before.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# TENSE CHANGES

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<tr>
<td>Will</td>
<td>I'll see you later</td>
<td>She said (that) she would see me later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>would*</td>
<td>I would help, but..”</td>
<td>She said (that) she would help but...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can</td>
<td>I can speak perfect English</td>
<td>She said (that) she could speak perfect English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>could*</td>
<td>I could swim when I was four</td>
<td>She said (that) she could swim when she was four.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shall</td>
<td>I shall come later</td>
<td>She said (that) she would come later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>should*</td>
<td>I should call my mother</td>
<td>She said (that) she should call her mother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>might*</td>
<td>I might be late</td>
<td>She said (that) she might be late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must</td>
<td>I must study at the weekend</td>
<td>She said (that) she must study at the weekend OR She said she had to study at the weekend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTIONS IN REPORTED SPEECH

Word order: The word order in a reported question is the same as in a statement. The subject comes before the verb.

Question: Are you ready?
Statement: I am ready

Question in reported speech: She wanted to know if I was ready.
PRONOUNS

The person who is reporting what someone said is usually different from the person who made the original statement. As a result, pronouns in reported speech often change.

Quotation
“I am hungry.”
“Where will you be?”
“Have you seen my glasses?”

Reported Speech
Ciara said she was hungry.
Anne wanted to know where I would be. David asked me if I had seen his glasses.
PLACE AND TIME

Changes in the situation between direct and reported speech can result in changes to words indicating place and time.

Quotation
“I don’t like this book.” “I’ll see you tomorrow.”
(spoken on Thursday)

Reported Speech
Jaime said he didn’t like that book. Michiko said she would see me yesterday.
(reported on Saturday)
RECOMMEND AND SUGGEST

The subjunctive, or base, form of the verb (no tense, without to) is used in reported speech when the main verb is recommend or suggest.

Quotation
“You should arrive early.” “Don’t wait to apply.” “Kathy should call me.”

Reported Speech
John recommended that we arrive early. Anna recommended that I not wait to apply. I will suggest that Kathy call you.”
INFINITIVES

Infinitives (to + the simple form of the verb) may sometimes be used instead of noun clauses, especially in commands and in requests for action or permission.

Commands can be reported two ways:
A noun clause with a modal (usually should)
An infinitive

Quotation
“Call me when you get home.” “Plan ahead.”

Reported Speech
Mom said we should call her when we get home. Mom said to call her when we get home.
My father told me that I should plan ahead. My father told me to plan ahead.
INFINITIVES

Requests for action or permission can be reported two ways:
A noun clause with if
An infinitive

Quotation
“Will you carry the box for me?”
“Can I make an appointment?

Reported Speech
She asked me if I would carry the box for her.
She asked me to carry the box for her.
Jim asked if he could make an appointment. Jim asked to make an appointment.
IDENTIFY DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH

1. Read the text. Did Mark steal the bag? Did the police officer believe him?

Mark was sitting at the bus stop when a young man ran up and put a bag on the bench next to him. He told Mark that he could have the bag, and then ran off. Mark was confused. He was just looking inside the bag when a police officer arrived and told Mark that she was arresting him. She said that Mark had stolen the bag. Mark replied that he was innocent, but the officer said that criminals always pretended they hadn’t done anything wrong.

2. Read the quotations and underline the parts of the text in exercise 1 where they are reported.

1. “You can have this bag.”
2. “I’m arresting you.”
3. “You stole the bag.”
4. “I’m innocent!”
5. “Criminals always pretend they haven’t done anything wrong!”

3. Compare the quotations in exercise 2 with the underlined text in exercise 1. How do the verbs and pronouns change?
5 Rewrite what Freya says using reported speech.

1 I'm bored.
   Freya said that she was bored.
2 I don't want to watch a film.
3 I'm going to ring Lesley.
4 I can't find my mobile!
5 I can borrow my mum's phone.
6 My mum doesn't have Lesley's number on her phone.
7 I'm going to Lesley's house.
6 Rewrite the quotations in reported speech. Change the pronouns if necessary.

1 ‘I stole a CD from the music shop,’ he said.
   He said that he had stolen a CD from the music shop.
2 ‘I want to catch the shoplifter,’ the security guard said.
3 ‘The police arrested a vandal,’ she said.
4 ‘It’s difficult to catch drug dealers,’ said the police inspector.
5 ‘We are questioning two teenagers about the burglary,’ the police officer said.
6 ‘I sometimes go joyriding with my friends,’ he said.
7 ‘The police are looking for the bank robbers,’ she said.
8 ‘A boy in my class vandalised a park bench,’ my brother said.
Complete the reported speech sentences. Use the past simple, could/couldn't, past continuous or past perfect.

1. ‘I hate drug dealers,’ said Amy.
   Amy said that she hated drug dealers.

2. ‘Some boys are vandalising a car!’ said James.
   James said that some boys were vandalising a car.

3. ‘Every year burglars break into hundreds of houses in the city,’ said the journalist.
   The journalist said that every year, burglars break into hundreds of houses in the city.

4. ‘A thief stole my wallet,’ she said.
   She said that a thief stole her wallet.

5. ‘A shoplifter stole three CDs,’ said the shop manager.
   The shop manager said that a shoplifter stole three CDs.

6. ‘The murderer is in the police car,’ said the police officer.
   The police officer said that the murderer was in the police car.

7. ‘Burglars can easily break into your house if you don’t lock all the doors and windows,’ said the police officer.
   The police officer said that burglars can easily break into their house if they lock all the doors and windows.

8. ‘Joyriders took my car from my garage,’ the man said.
   The man said that joyriders took his car from his garage.

9. ‘You can go to jail if you deal drugs,’ said Becky.
   Becky said that he would go to jail if he dealt drugs.

10. ‘Two men robbed the bank,’ the bank manager said.
    The bank manager said that two men robbed the bank.
5 Complete the sentences with the correct pronoun.  → 9.4

1 ‘You’re annoying me!’ she told me.
   She told _____ that _____ was annoying her.

2 ‘I like playing games on my mobile,’ he said.
   He said that _____ liked playing games on _____ mobile.

3 ‘I’m going out,’ said Catherine.
   Catherine said that _____ was going out.

4 ‘She never texts me,’ said Tony.
   Tony said that _____ never texted _____.

5 ‘They failed their exams,’ said Tom.
   Tom said that _____ had failed _____ exams.

6 ‘We all go to the same school,’ she said.
   She said that _____ all went to the same school.
EXERCISES FOR STATEMENTS

CHANGE THE STATEMENTS TO REPORTED SPEECH

“He works in a bank”
She said ________________________________________________________

“We went out last night”
She told me ______________________________________________________

“I’m coming!”
She said _________________________________________________________

“I was waiting for the bus when he arrived”
She told me _______________________________________________________

“I’d never been there before”
She said _________________________________________________________

“I didn’t go to the party”
She told me ______________________________________________________

“Lucy’ll come later”
She said _________________________________________________________

“He hasn’t eaten breakfast”
She told me ______________________________________________________

“I can help you tomorrow”
She said _________________________________________________________

“You should go to bed early”
She told me ______________________________________________________
EXERCISES FOR STATEMENTS

CHANGE THE STATEMENTS TO REPORTED SPEECH

“I don’t like chocolate”
She told me ________________________________________________________

“I won’t see you tomorrow”
She said ___________________________________________________________

“She’s living in Paris for a few months”
She said ___________________________________________________________

“I visited my parents at the weekend”
She told me ________________________________________________________

“She hasn’t eaten sushi before”
She said ___________________________________________________________

“I hadn’t travelled by underground before I came to London”
She said ___________________________________________________________

“They would help if they could”
She said ___________________________________________________________

“I’ll do the washing-up later”
She told me ________________________________________________________

“He could read when he was three”
She said ___________________________________________________________

“I was sleeping when Julie called”
She said ___________________________________________________________
EXERCISES FOR QUESTIONS

CHANGE THE QUESTIONS TO REPORTED SPEECH

“Where is he?”
She asked me ____________________________

“What are you doing?”
She asked me ____________________________

“Why did you go out last night?”
She asked me ____________________________

“Who was that beautiful woman?”
She asked me ____________________________

“How is your mother?”
She asked me ____________________________

“What are you going to do at the weekend?”
She asked me ____________________________

“Where will you live after graduation?”
She asked me ____________________________

“What were you doing when I saw you?”
She asked me ____________________________

“How was the journey?”
She asked me ____________________________
EXERCISES FOR QUESTIONS

CHANGE THE QUESTIONS TO REPORTED SPEECH

“How often do you go to the cinema?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Do you live in London?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Did he arrive on time?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Have you been to Paris?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Can you help me?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Are you working tonight?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Will you come later?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Do you like coffee?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Is this the road to the station?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Did you do your homework?”
She asked me ____________________________________________

“Have you studied reported speech before?”
She asked me ____________________________________________
CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

“Please help me carry this”
She asked me ________________________________

“Please come early”
She ________________________________

“Please buy some milk”
She ________________________________

“Could you please open the window?”
She ________________________________

“Could you bring the book tonight?”
She ________________________________

“Can you help me with my homework, please?”
She ________________________________

“Would you bring me a cup of coffee, please?”
She ________________________________

“Would you mind passing the salt?”
She ________________________________

“Would you mind lending me a pencil?”
She ________________________________
EXERCISES FOR REQUESTS AND ORDERS

CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

“I was wondering if you could possibly tell me the time?”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Do your homework!”
She told me ________________________________________________________

“Go to bed!”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Don’t be late!”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Don’t smoke!”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Tidy your room!”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Wait here!”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Don’t do that!”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Eat your dinner!”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Don’t make a mess!”
She ______________________________________________________________

“Do the washing-up!”
She ______________________________________________________________
EXERCISES FUTURE SIMPLE

CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

“"I’ll go to the cinema later."”
She said ________________________________

“"We’ll meet the children at six."”
She said ________________________________

“"She’ll be late."”
She said ________________________________

“"Lucy will definitely come."”
She said ________________________________

“"I will stop smoking on Tuesday."”
She told us ________________________________

“"John won't do it."”
She said ________________________________

“"They won't be able to arrive early."”
She said ________________________________

“"I won't come with you."”
She said ________________________________

“"He won't remember to buy milk."”
She said ________________________________

10. “"It won't rain later I'm sure."”
She said ________________________________
CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

“The Conservatives will win the next election.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“That girl will never pass the exam.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“John will arrive before David.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“It will be cold tonight.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“Jenny will cook dinner.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“We want to get married next year.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“I won't be able to afford a new car.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“She won't want to attend the meeting.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“Richard won't drink coffee.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“I won't vote at the next election.”
She said ________________________________________________________
EXERCISES PRESENT PERFECT

CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

“I’ve never been to Brazil.”
She said ____________________________________________

“She has visited Paris three times.”
She said ____________________________________________

“He has read ‘War and Peace’.”
She said ____________________________________________

“I haven’t seen Julie for ages.”
She said ____________________________________________

“He hasn’t been to school this week.”
She said ____________________________________________

“We haven’t seen ‘The Lord of the Rings’.”
She said ____________________________________________

“They’ve eaten in a lot of different restaurants.”
She said ____________________________________________

“I’ve never tried skateboarding.”
She said ____________________________________________

“Lucy has drunk six cups of coffee today.”
She said ____________________________________________

“Mr Black has written three books.”
She said ____________________________________________
EXERCISES PRESENT PERFECT

CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

“It hasn't rained much this year.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“She has never swum in the sea.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“He has studied Latin.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“I've been sick all week.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“Robert has been to China five times.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“I haven't met Richard before.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“Julie has never studied music.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“He has eaten too much chocolate.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“We haven't seen the new play.”
She said ________________________________________________________

“I haven't tried the new restaurant yet.”
She said ________________________________________________________
EXERCISES PRESENT SIMPLE

CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

"I live in New York"
She said ______________________________________________________

"He works in a bank"
She told me ______________________________________________________

"Julie doesn't like going out much"
She said ______________________________________________________

"I don't have a computer"
She said ______________________________________________________

"They never arrive on time"
She said ______________________________________________________

"We often meet friends in London at the weekend"
He told me ______________________________________________________

"David doesn't have any children"
She said ______________________________________________________

"I don't go to the gym very often"
She said ______________________________________________________

"Lucy owns three flats in the city"
She said ______________________________________________________

"I never get up early on Sundays"
She said ______________________________________________________
EXERCISES PRESENT SIMPLE

CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

“She meets her boyfriend at the cinema every Friday night”
He said ____________________________

“We don’t travel much”
She said ____________________________

“John doesn’t live in Japan any more”
She said ____________________________

“They work in Hong Kong”
She told me ____________________________

“I have to work until seven or eight pm every night”
She said ____________________________

“I don’t want to go to the theatre next weekend”
She said ____________________________

“We like working in Paris”
She said ____________________________

“She doesn’t have enough time to do everything”
She said ____________________________

“Tony hates mushrooms”
She told me ____________________________

“They often go on holiday in July”
She said ____________________________
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