



UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DEL ESTADO DE MÉXICO
FACULTAD DE MEDICINA VETERINARIA Y ZOOTECNIA
LICENCIATURA EN MEDICINA VETERINARIA Y ZOOTECNIA
UNIDAD DE APRENDIZAJE DE INGLÉS 8

REPORTED SPEECH

DRA. MARÍA UXÚA ALONSO FRESÁN



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:**

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**

tell + someone + (that) + 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':

tell + someone + to + 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:

ask + someone + if / question word + 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:

ask + someone + to + infinitive

e.g. I asked Lucy to pass me the salt.

TENSE CHANGES

Tense	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
present simple	I like ice cream	She said (that) she liked ice cream.
present continuous	I am living in London	She said (that) she was living in London.
past simple	I bought a car	She said (that) she had bought a car OR She said (that) she bought a car.
past continuous	I was walking along the street	She said (that) she had been walking along the street.
present perfect	I haven't seen Julie	She said (that) she hadn't seen Julie.
past perfect*	I had taken English lessons before	She said (that) she had taken English lessons before.

TENSE CHANGES

Tense	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Will	I'll see you later	She said (that) she would see me later.
would*	I would help, but..”	She said (that) she would help but...
Can	I can speak perfect English	She said (that) she could speak perfect English.
could*	I could swim when I was four	She said (that) she could swim when she was four.
Shall	I shall come later	She said (that) she would come later.
should*	I should call my mother	She said (that) she should call her mother
might*	I might be late	She said (that) she might be late
Must	I must study at the weekend	She said (that) she must study at the weekend OR She said she had to study at the weekend

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. J

im 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?

Falla and Davies, 2012

DIRECT TO REPORTED SPEECH

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.

DIRECT TO REPORTED SPEECH

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.

DIRECT TO REPORTED SPEECH

4 Complete the reported speech sentences. Use the past simple, *could/couldn't*, past continuous or past perfect.

→ 9.3, 9.4

- 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 _____ a car.
- 3 'Every year burglars break into hundreds of houses in the city,' said the journalist.
The journalist said that every year, burglars _____ hundreds of houses in the city.
- 4 'A thief stole my wallet,' she said.
She said that a thief _____ her wallet.
- 5 'A shoplifter stole three CDs,' said the shop manager.
The shop manager said that a shoplifter _____ three CDs.
- 6 'The murderer is in the police car,' said the police officer.
The police officer said that the murderer _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ his car from his garage.
- 9 'You can go to jail if you deal drugs,' said Becky.
Becky said that he _____ go to jail if he _____ drugs.
- 10 'Two men robbed the bank,' the bank manager said.
The bank manager said that two men _____ the bank.

DIRECT TO REPORTED SPEECH

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 _____

EXERCISES FOR REQUESTS AND ORDERS

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 _____

EXERCISES FUTURE SIMPLE

CHANGE THE SENTENCES TO REPORTED SPEECH

"The Conservatives will win the next election."

She said _____

"That girl will never pass the exam."

She told us _____

"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 _____

REFERENCES

- Falla, T. and Davies P.A. 2012. Solutions. 2nd. Edition. OUP. China.
- Parrot M. 2000. Grammar for English language teachers. 2nd edition. CUP. U.K.
- Perfect English Grammar.
<http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/reported-speech.html>. Consultado el 15/10/2017
- Reported Speech and Direct Speech. 2013. St. Louis Community College.
www.stlcc.edu/Student_Resources/.../Reported-Speech.pdf. Consultado el 15/10/2017