

# REPORTED SPEECH



**If we report what another person has said, we usually do not use the speaker's exact words (direct speech), but reported speech (indirect).**



# When transforming statements, check whether you have to change:

- ✓ pronouns
- ✓ present tense verbs (3rd person singular)
- ✓ place and time expressions
- ✓ tenses (backshift)



# Example

## Direct speech

“I speak English.”

## Reported speech

He said that he spoke English.



## Backshift of tenses

Simple Present

Simple Past

Simple Past

Present Perfect

Past Perfect

Past Perfect

Will

Would

## Progressive forms

am/are/is

Was/were

Was/were

Has been

Had been

Had been

# REPORTED SPEECH

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Direct Speech</b>	<b>Reported Speech</b>
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.

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Direct Speech</b>	<b>Reported Speech</b>
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

**\* DOES NOT CHANGE**



# QUESTIONS

## Direct Question

Where is the Post Office, please?

What are you doing?

Who was that fantastic man?

## Reported Question

She asked me where the Post Office was.

She asked me what I was doing.

She asked me who that fantastic man had been.

## Direct Question

Do you love me?

Have you ever been to Mexico?

Are you living here?

## Reported Question

He asked me if I loved him.

She asked me if I had ever been to Mexico.

She asked me if I was living here.



# NOTE

When transforming questions,  
also note that you have to:

- ✓ Transform the question into an indirect question
- ✓ Use the ***INTERROGATIVE*** or ***IF / WHETHER***



# REQUESTS

## Direct Request

Please help me.

Please don't smoke.

Could you bring my book tonight?

Could you pass the milk, please?

Would you mind coming early tomorrow?

## Reported Request

She asked me to help her.

She asked me not to smoke.

She asked me to bring her book that night.

She asked me to pass the milk.

She asked me to come early the next day.

# ORDERS

## Direct Order Reported Order

Go to bed!      He told the child to go to bed.

Don't worry!    He told her not to worry.

Be on time!     He told me to be on time.

Don't smoke!    He told us not to smoke.

# POSSIBLE CONVERSIONS



now	then / at that time
today	yesterday / that day / Tuesday / the 27th of June
yesterday	the day before yesterday / the day before / Wednesday / the 5th of December
last night	the night before, Thursday night
last week	the week before / the previous week
tomorrow	today / the next day / the following day / Friday

# EXERCISES

**Rewrite the sentences in reported speech. Change pronouns and time expressions where necessary.**

- She said, "I am reading."  
→ She said that \_\_\_\_\_
- They said, "We are busy."  
→ They said that \_\_\_\_\_
- He said, "I know a better restaurant."  
→ He said that \_\_\_\_\_
- She said, "I woke up early."  
→ She said that \_\_\_\_\_
- He said, "I will ring her."  
→ He said that \_\_\_\_\_

- They said, "We have just arrived."  
→ They said that \_\_\_\_\_
- He said, "I will clean the car."  
→ He said that \_\_\_\_\_
- She said, "I did not say that."  
→ She said that \_\_\_\_\_
- She said, "I don't know where my shoes are."  
→ She said that \_\_\_\_\_
- He said: "I won't tell anyone."  
→ He said that \_\_\_\_\_



# REPORTING QUESTIONS

- "Where is my umbrella?" she asked.  
→ She asked \_\_\_\_\_
- "How are you?" Martin asked us.  
→ Martin asked us \_\_\_\_\_
- He asked, "Do I have to do it?"  
→ He asked \_\_\_\_\_
- "Where have you been?" the mother asked her daughter.  
→ The mother asked her daughter \_\_\_\_\_
- "Which dress do you like best?" she asked her boyfriend.  
→ She asked her boyfriend \_\_\_\_\_





- "What are they doing?" she asked.  
→ She wanted to know \_\_\_\_\_
- "Are you going to the cinema?" he asked me.  
→ He wanted to know \_\_\_\_\_
- The teacher asked, "Who speaks English?"  
→ The teacher wanted to know \_\_\_\_\_
- "How do you know that?" she asked me.  
→ She asked me \_\_\_\_\_
- "Has Caron talked to Kevin?" my friend asked me.  
→ My friend asked me \_\_\_\_\_





**QUESTIONS**

