

REPORTED

SPEECH



We can report people's words by using direct speech or reported speech.

'I'm tired!', Helen said.

Helen said (that) she was tired.



The main verb of the sentence is usually past (Tom said that... / I told her that...) and the rest of the sentence is usually past too.

Sequence of tenses – if the verb in the main sentence is in the past tense - the other verbs are usually in one of the past tense too.



Present Simple

I am a teacher.

Past Simple

He said (that) he was a teacher

Present Progressive

I am having lunch with my parents.

Past Progressive

He said (that) he was having lunch with his parents.

Past Simple

I bought a new car.

Past Perfect

He said (that) he had bought a new car.

Future Simple

I will go to the cinema.

Future-in-the-Past

He said (that) he would go to the cinema.

Present Perfect

I have been to France three times.

Past Perfect

He said (that) he had been to France three times.

Read the sentences and turn them in the indirect form.

1. Ralph said, "We have been in the mountains this summer."
2. "We were very happy to spend the weekend at the seaside," said Donald.
3. "We have left the school," said the children.
4. "In 1991 I entered Oxford University," said Henry.



Modal Verbs

can

I can swim under water for two minutes.

could

He said (that) he could swim under water for two minutes.

must

All tickets must be bought in advance.

had to

He said (that) all tickets had to be bought in advance.

may

I may call you.

might

He said (that) he might call me.

NOTE:

modal verbs - *could, would, might and should* do not change.



Changes in reported speech



now	then /at that time /immediately at that moment
today / tonight	that day /that night
here	there
this / these	that / those
tomorrow	the following day /the next day the day after
next week	the following week /the next week the week after
yesterday	the previous day /the day before
last week	the previous week /the week before
(a year) ago	(a year) before /earlier
the day before yesterday	two days before /earlier
the day after tomorrow	in two days' time
come	go

Direct Speech

I
you
we
me
you
us

my
your
our
mine
yours
ours

Indirect/Reported Speech

he, she
I, she, he, we, they
they
him, her
him, her, us, them
them

his, her
my, his, her, our, their
their
his, hers
mine, his, hers, ours, theirs
theirs

Differences between TELL and SAY

TELL is always followed by a personal direct object or someone's name.

Harry told me (that) he was hungry.

Harry told Sarah (that) he was cold.

SAY is immediately followed by a noun clause.

She said (that) **she was hungry.**

He said (that) **he was feeling tired.**



Reporting special questions



Direct Speech

Indirect Speech

"**What** did you do yesterday?"

Tell me **what** you had done yesterday.

"**When** will you come home?"

Tell me **when** you would come home.

"**Who** won the game?"

Tell me **who** had won the game.

Read the sentences and write them in the indirect form.

- 1. Nancy asked her mother, "What is the weather going to be, rainy or sunny?"**
- 2. The teacher asked her class, "Who will take part in the competition?"**
- 3. Mary asked her friend, "What did you do during your winter holidays?"**
- 4. Lucy asked her new friend, "When were you born?"**
- 5. The tourist asked a policeman, "How can I get to the centre of the city?"**
- 6. Wife asked her husband, "When will you come home from work?"**
- 7. The mother asked her children, "Who will help me to lay the table?"**



Reporting general questions



Direct Speech

Indirect Speech

Will the weather be fine tomorrow?"

Tell me **if** the weather would be fine the following day.

Did you have tea or coffee for breakfast?"

Tell me **whether** you had had tea or coffee for breakfast.

Read the sentences and turn them in the indirect form:

- 1. Kate asked her little brother, "Have you washed your face and hands, Jimmy?"**
- 2. The mother asked her daughter, "Do you want to have tea, Dolly?"**
- 3. The man asked a policeman, "Shall I turn to the right or to the left to get to the museum, officer?"**
- 4. Robert asked his friend, "Is the wind strong?"**
- 5. Ann asked her grandmother, "Will you take me to my Aunt, Granny?"**



Reporting imperative sentences



Press the red button! ► He told me **to press the red button.**

Don't answer the phone now! ► He asked me **not to answer the phone then.**



Read the sentences and turn them in the indirect form:

- 1. Mrs. Roberts said, "Look after your sister, Ann."**
- 2. The parents said to their little daughter, "Don't cross the street when the light is red."**
- 3. The teacher said, "Please, hand in your exercise-book."**
- 4. The boy said to his friend, "Come to see me on Sunday, will you?"**
- 5. The mother said to her son, "Write down a list of the things you will have to buy."**
- 6. The teacher said, "Go on reading, Ann."**

