

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

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Learning Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define what reported speech is and differentiate it from direct speech.
- Identify different modifications that need to be done when transforming statements, questions and requests or commands to reported speech.
- Learn other forms of transformations which are exempted from the aforementioned types of sentences.
- Report statements, questions and request or commands using the proper structure learned in the lesson.

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

Reported speech is when you tell somebody else what you or a person said before. Distinction must be made between *direct speech* and *reported speech*.

Direct speech vs Reported speech

Direct speech	Reported speech
She says: "I like tuna fish."	She says that she likes tuna fish.
She said: "I'm visiting Paris next weekend"	She said that she was visiting Paris the following weekend.

Different types of sentences

When you use reported speech, you either report:

- statements
- questions
- requests / commands
- other types

Period.



Lesson 9. Reported Speech

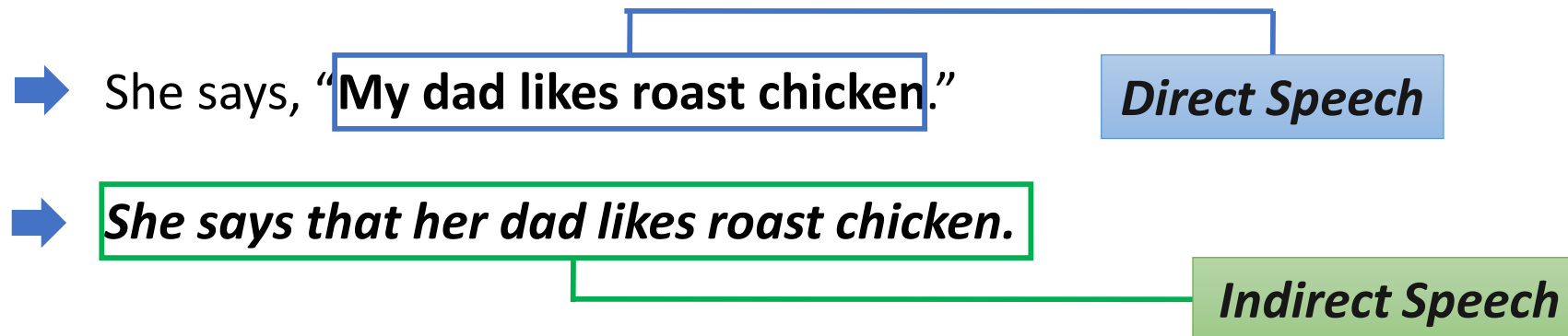
Different types of sentences

When transforming statements, check whether you have to change:

- pronouns
- tense
- place and time expression

1. Pronouns

In reported speech, you often have to change the pronoun depending on who says what.



Lesson 9. Reported Speech

2. Tenses

- If the sentence **starts in the present**, there is **no backshift** of tenses in reported speech.
- If the sentence **starts in the past**, there is **often backshift** of tenses in reported speech.

Backshift

You must change the tense if the introductory clause is in a past tense (e. g. *He said*).

No Backshift

Do not change the tense if the introductory clause is in a present tense (e. g. *He says*). Note, however, that you might have to change the form of the present tense verb (3rd person singular).

	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
(no backshift)	"I write poems."	He says that he writes poems.
(backshift)	"I write poems."	He said that he wrote poems

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Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Simple Present He said: "I am happy"	Simple Past He said that he was happy
Present Progressive He said: "I'm looking for my keys"	Past Progressive He said that he was looking for his keys
Simple Past He said: "I visited New York last year"	Past Perfect Simple He said that he had visited New York the previous year.
Present Perfect He said: " I've lived here for a long time "	Past Perfect He said that he had lived there for a long time
Past Perfect He said: "They had finished the work when I arrived"	Past Perfect He said that they had finished the work when he had arrived "

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Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Past Progressive He said: "I was playing football when the accident occurred "	Past Perfect Progressive He said that he had been playing football when the accident had occurred
Present Perfect Progressive He said: "I have been playing football for two hours."	Past Perfect Progressive He said that he had been playing football for two hours
Past Perfect Progressive He said: "I had been reading a newspaper when the light went off "	Past Perfect Progressive He said that he had been reading a newspaper when the light had gone off
Future Simple (will+verb) He said: "I will open the door."	Conditional (would+verb) He said that he would open the door.
Conditional (would+verb) He said: "I would buy Mercedes if I were rich"	Conditional (would+verb) He said that he would buy Mercedes if he had been rich"

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

The modal verbs *could*, *should*, *would*, *might*, *needn't*, *ought to*, *used to* do not normally change.

- ➔ He said, "*She might be right.*"
- ➔ *He said that she might be right.*



Other modal verbs may change:cccc

Modal	Direct speech	Reported speech
can	"I can do it."	He said he could do it.
may	" May I go out?"	He wanted to know if he might go out.
must	"She must apply for the job."	He said that she must/had to apply for the job.

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

3. Place, demonstratives and time expressions

Place, demonstratives and time expressions change if the context of the reported statement (i.e. the location and/or the period of time) is different from that of the direct speech.

In the following table, you will find the different changes of place; demonstratives and time expressions.

Direct Speech			Reported Speech		
Time Expressions	Place	Demonstratives	Time Expressions	Place	Demonstratives
today	here	this	that day	there	
now			then		
yesterday			the day before		
... days ago		... days before	those		
last week		the week before			
next year		the following year			
tomorrow			the next/following day		

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

Change the following statements into reported speech:

1. "He works in a bank"

She said _____.

2. "We went out last night"

She told me _____.

3. "I'm coming!"

She said _____.

4. "I was waiting for the bus when he arrived"

She told me _____.

5. "I'd never been there before"

She said _____.

6. "I didn't go to the party"

She told me _____.

7. "Lucy'll come later"

She said _____.

8. "He hasn't eaten breakfast"

She told me _____.

9. "I can help you tomorrow"

She said _____.

10. "You should go to bed early"

She told me _____.

11. "I don't like chocolate"

She told me _____.

12. "I won't see you tomorrow"

She said _____.

13. "She's living in Paris for a few months"

She said _____.

14. "I visited my parents at the weekend"

She told me _____.

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

Report statements that you've (recently) heard from the following people:



a politician



a woman in a romantic relationship



a scientist



a weather forecaster



a superstar



a neighbor

Lesson 6. Conditionals

When transforming questions, check whether you have to change:

- pronouns
- place and time expressions
- tenses (backshift)

Also note that you have to:

- transform the question into an indirect question
- use the question word (where, when, what, how) or if / whether



Types of questions	Direct speech	Reported speech
With question word (what, why, where, how...)	"Why" don't you speak English?"	He asked me why I didn't speak English.
Without question word (yes or no questions)	"Do you speak English?"	He asked me whether / if I spoke English.

Lesson 6. Conditionals

Change the following questions into reported speech:

1. "Where is he?"

She asked _____.

2. "What are you doing?"

She asked _____.

3. "Why did you go out last night?"

She asked _____.

4. "Who was that beautiful woman?"

She asked _____.

5. "How is your mother?"

She asked _____.

6. "How is your mother?"

She asked _____.

7. "How is your mother?"

She asked _____.

8. "What were you doing when I saw you?"

She asked _____.

9. "How was the journey?"

She asked _____.

10. "How often do you go to the cinema?"

She asked _____.

11. "Do you live in London?"

She asked _____.

12. "Did he arrive on time?"

She asked _____.

13. "Have you been to Paris?"

She asked _____.

14. "Can you help me?"

She asked _____.

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

Report questions that have been asked by the following people to you:



a stranger on a street



a toddler



an elderly



a colleague or schoolmate



a customer service representative



anyone of the opposite gender

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

When transforming requests and commands, check whether you have to change:

- pronouns
- place and time expressions



Direct speech	Reported speech
"Nancy, do the exercise."	He told Nancy to do the exercise.
"Nancy, give me your pen, please."	He asked Nancy to give him her pen.

Tenses are not relevant for requests – simply use *to* / *not to* + verb (infinitive without "to")

➔ She said, "***Sit down.***"

➔ ***She asked me to sit down.***

➔ She said, "***don't be lazy***"

➔ ***She asked me not to be lazy.***

For affirmative use *to* + infinitive (without to)
For negative requests, use *not to* + infinitive (without to).

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Change the following requests or commands into reported speech:

1. "Please help me carry this"

She asked _____.

2. "Please come early"

She _____.

3. "Please buy some milk"

She _____.

4. "Could you please open the window?"

She _____.

5. "Could you bring the book tonight?"

She _____.

6. "Can you help me with my homework, please?"

She _____.

7. "Would you bring me a cup of coffee, please?"

She _____.

8. "Would you mind passing the salt?"

She _____.

9. "Would you mind lending me a pencil?"

She _____.

10. "Tidy your room!"

She _____.

11. "Do your homework!"

She _____.

12. "Go to bed!"

She _____.

13. "Don't be late!"

She _____.

14. "Don't smoke!"

She _____.

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

Report request or commands that are commonly given by the following people:



your mother



your father



online teacher



a boss



a country president



a pet owner

Lesson 9. Reported Speech

- Expressions of advice with **must**, **should** and **ought** are usually reported using *advise / urge*.
 - ➔ "You **must** read this book."
 - ➔ He **advised / urged** me to read that book.
- The expression **let's** is usually reported using *suggest*. In this case, there are two possibilities for reported speech: gerund or statement with *should*.
 - ➔ "Let's go to the cinema."
 - ➔ 1. He **suggested** going to the cinema.
 - ➔ 2. He **suggested** that we **should** go to the cinema.

Main clauses connected with and/but

If two complete main clauses are connected with *,and* or *,but*, put *,that* after the conjunction.

- ➔ He said, "I saw her but she didn't see me."
- ➔ "He said that he had seen her but **THAT** she hadn't seen him."
If the subject is dropped in the second main clause (the conjunction is followed by a verb), do not use ,that'.
- ➔ She said, "I am a nurse and work in a hospital."
- ➔ "He said that she was a nurse and worked in a hospital."

The End