

REPORTED SPEECH

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REPORTED SPEECH

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

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

direct speech "I speak English."

reported speech

(no backshift) He says that he speaks English.

reported speech

(backshift) He said that he spoke English.

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REPORTED SPEECH

We use a 'reporting verb' like 'say' or 'tell'. If this verb is in the present tense, it's easy. We just put 'he/she says' and then the sentence:

- o Direct speech: "I like ice cream".
- o Reported speech: She **says** (that) she **likes** ice cream.

But, if the reporting verb is in the past tense, then usually we change the tenses in the reported speech (backshift):

- o Direct speech: "I like ice cream".
- o Reported speech: She **said** (that) she **liked** ice cream.

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REPORTED SPEECH

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):

- o Direct speech: "The sky is blue".
- o Reported speech: She said (that) the sky **is/was** blue.

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DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Present simple He said, "I want to watch a film"	Past Simple He said (that) he wanted to watch a film
Present Continuous He said, "Jane is sleeping."	Past Continuous He said (that) Jane was sleeping.
Present Perfect She said, "I have bought a new dress."	Past Perfect She said (that) she had bought a new dress.
Past Simple Alex said, "I finished my homework."	Past Perfect Alex said (that) he had finished his homework.
Will She said, "I will always love Tom."	Would She said (that) she would always love Tom.
Can Tom said, "I can carry 50 kg."	Could Tom said (that) he could carry 50 kg.
May Ben said, "It may rain."	Might Ben said (that) it might rain.
Must He said, "Everybody must obey the rules."	Had to He said (that) everybody had to obey the rules.
Have to She said, "I have to go home."	Had to She said (that) she had to go home.

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DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
today	that day
yesterday	the day before
the day before yesterday	two days before
tomorrow	the next day/the following day
the day after tomorrow	in two day's time
next week/year etc.	the following week/year etc.
last week/year etc.	the previous week/year etc.
a year etc. ago	a year before/the previous year

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CHANGE THE DIRECT SPEECH INTO REPORTED SPEECH. USE 'SHE SAID' AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH ANSWER. IT'S THE SAME DAY, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO CHANGE THE TIME EXPRESSIONS.

- 1) "He works in a bank" .
- 2) "We went out last night" .
- 3) "I'm coming!" .
- 4) "I was waiting for the bus when he arrived" .
- 5) "I'd never been there before" .
- 6) "I didn't go to the party" .
- 7) "Lucy will come later" .
- 8) "He hasn't eaten breakfast" .
- 9) "I can help you tomorrow" .
- 10) "You should go to bed early" .

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CHANGE THE DIRECT SPEECH INTO REPORTED SPEECH. USE 'SHE SAID' AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH ANSWER. IT'S THE SAME DAY, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO CHANGE THE TIME EXPRESSIONS.

- 11) "I don't like chocolate" .
- 12) "I won't see you tomorrow" .
- 13) "She's living in Paris for a few months" .
- 14) "I visited my parents at the weekend" .
- 15) "She hasn't eaten sushi before" .
- 16) "I hadn't travelled by underground before I came to London" .
- 17) "They would help if they could" .
- 18) "I'll do the washing-up later" .
- 19) "He could read when he was three" .
- 20) "I was sleeping when Julie called" .

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PUT IN 'SAID' OR 'TOLD':

- 1) Julie _____ that she would join us after work.
- 2) She _____ me that she was going running this evening.
- 3) John _____ us that he couldn't come to the party.
- 4) John _____ that he had been to the cinema at the weekend.
- 5) She _____ them she wanted to quit.
- 6) David _____ that he was going to arrive at eight.
- 7) They _____ that they didn't want to meet us on Tuesday.
- 8) I _____ him I wasn't impressed.
- 9) Lucy _____ Julie that she was leaving on Wednesday.
- 10) We _____ that we were going on holiday the following week.

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PUT IN 'SAID' OR 'TOLD':

- 11) Jack _____ my mother he would be in Spain this week.
- 12) I _____ that I hated mushrooms.
- 13) She _____ she loved chocolate.
- 14) They _____ they were meeting Luke today.
- 15) They _____ us they were going to the museum this afternoon.
- 16) He _____ he wouldn't start without us.
- 17) I _____ them I'd bring pudding.
- 18) Jonathan _____ it would rain today.
- 19) They _____ us that it was fine to come late.
- 20) The boss _____ me that I should do some more work on this report.

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HOW ABOUT QUESTIONS?

Questions: When transforming questions, check whether you have to change:

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

Also note that you have to:

- transform the question into an indirect question
- use the interrogative or *if / whether*

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HOW ABOUT QUESTIONS?

Wh- questions

- Direct speech: "Where do you live?"

The tense changes are the same, and we keep the question word. But we need to change the grammar to a normal positive sentence.

- Direct speech: "Where do you live?"
- Reported speech: She asked me where I lived.

- Direct speech: "Where is Julie?"
- Reported speech: She asked me where Julie was.

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DIRECT AND REPORTED WH- QUESTIONS

Direct question	Reported question
Where is the post office, please?	She asked me where the post office was.
What are you doing?	She asked me what I was doing.
Why don't you speak English?	He asked me why I didn't speak English.

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HOW ABOUT QUESTIONS?

Yes/No questions

We use 'if' or "whether"

- Direct speech: "Do you like chocolate?"
- Reported speech: She asked me if I liked chocolate.

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DIRECT AND REPORTED YES/NO QUESTIONS

Direct question	Reported question
Do you love me?	He asked me if I loved him.
Have you ever been to Mexico?	She asked me if/whether I had ever been to Mexico.
Are you living here?	She asked me if/whether I was living here/there.

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TRANSFORM THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES FROM INDIRECT SPEECH TO DIRECT SPEECH

- 1) My mother told me to clean my teeth.
- 2) They asked us to take our things away.
- 3) The doctor said she had to do more exercise.
- 4) The teacher asked me to be quiet.
- 5) The woman asked me if there was a church nearby.
- 6) My mother asked me if I was going to be late.
- 7) The old lady asked what time it was.
- 8) My aunt asked me how I was.
- 9) He asked Mary if she was hungry.
- 10) He asked me if I had called my mother.

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WRITE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING THE INDIRECT SPEECH FORM

- 1) "I'm writing a book." (he said)
- 2) "Mary has seen this film before." (John said)
- 3) "I've done my homework." (Cathy says)
- 4) "There are many interesting museums in London." (Peter said)
- 5) "Your keys are in my bag." (Lucy said)
- 6) "My friends are very nice." (Beth says)
- 7) "I'm going away for a few days." (Sarah said)
- 8) "I'll help you." (My father said)
- 9) "I missed the bus yesterday." (Ian said)
- 10) "Don't touch the stove!" (my mother says)

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IMAGINE YOU WANT TO REPEAT SENTENCES THAT YOU HEARD TWO WEEKS AGO IN ANOTHER PLACE. REWRITE THE SENTENCES IN REPORTED SPEECH. CHANGE PRONOUNS AND EXPRESSIONS OF TIME AND PLACE WHERE NECESSARY.

- They said, "This is our book."
→ They said
- She said, "I went to the cinema yesterday."
→ She said
- He said, "I am writing a test tomorrow."
→ He said
- You said, "I will do this for him."
→ You said
- She said, "I am not hungry now."
→ She said

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- They said, "We have never been here before."
→ They said
- They said, "We were in London last week."
→ They said
- He said, "I will have finished this paper by tomorrow."
→ He said
- He said, "They won't sleep."
→ He said
- She said, "It is very quiet here."
→ She said

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QUESTIONS - COMPLETE THE SENTENCES IN REPORTED SPEECH. NOTE THE CHANGE OF PRONOUNS AND TENSES.

- "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

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- "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

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SOURCES AND EXERCISES

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