

Inglese

Corso di Laurea Magistrale in
Management e Monitoraggio del
Turismo Sostenibile

A.A. 2019/2020

Reported speech

sources:

D. Hall & M. Foley, 2012, *MyGrammarLab (Intermediate Students' Book con MyLab e Key)*, Longman, Harlow.

R. ROBERTS A. CLAIRE, J.J. WILSON, 2011, *New Total English Intermediate, Student's Book*, Longman.

Reported speech

When we report what someone said, we usually change the tense one step back to show that the words were said in the past.

Present Simple → Past Simple

*'I **live** in São Paulo.'* She said she **lived** in São Paulo.

Present Continuous → Past Continuous

*'I'm **working** for a fashion company.'*

*He said he **was working** for a fashion company.*

Present Perfect/Past Simple → Past Perfect

'I've been here for three months.'

She told me she had been there for three months.

will → *would*

'I'll go tomorrow.' He said he **would** go the next day.

Time references can also change in reported speech.

'Call me later today or tomorrow.'

*She told me to call her later **that day** or the **next day**.*

Pronouns can also change in reported speech.

*'I'll see you soon.' He said **he** would see us soon.*

If what the person said is still true, we can keep the present tense.

'I still love you.' She said she still **loves** me.

Look at the verb patterns for *say* and *tell*.

Say cannot have a person as its object.

She said (that) it was late. NOT: ~~She said me ...~~

Tell must be followed by a person.

He told me I was special. NOT: ~~He told that ...~~

He told me to lock the door. NOT: ~~He told to me ...~~

Reported questions

‘What time is it?’ He asked me what time it was.

‘Do you understand Spanish?’ She asked me if/whether I understood Spanish.

In reported questions the word order is the same as in affirmative statements because they are not actually questions.

The auxiliary verb (*do/does/did*) is not used.

'What do you do?' He asked me what I did/I do.

NOT: ~~He asked me what do I do.~~

In *Yes/No* questions we use *if/whether*.

'Do you live in Italy?' She asked if I lived in Italy.

There are different ways of reporting speech, with different verbs:

PATTERN		VERBS
1 verb + <i>that</i> clause	no object	<i>add admit announce claim complain insist reply respond say state suggest</i>
	+ object	<i>tell someone warn someone</i>
2 verb + infinitive with <i>to</i>	no object	<i>agree claim offer refuse</i>
	+ object	<i>advise someone ask someone beg someone encourage someone invite someone order someone persuade someone remind someone tell someone warn someone</i>
3 verb + <i>-ing</i> form	no preposition	<i>admit advise consider regret suggest</i>
	+ preposition	<i>admit to apologise for complain about insist on thank someone for</i>

PATTERN		VERBS
1 verb + <i>that</i> clause	no object	<i>add admit announce claim complain insist reply respond</i> <i>say state suggest</i>
	+ object	<i>tell someone warn someone</i>

PATTERN 1 *'I'm getting married in July.'*

→ *Simon announced that he was getting married in July.*

2 verb + infinitive with to	no object	agree <i>claim</i> offer refuse
	+ object	<i>advise</i> someone ask someone beg someone encourage someone invite someone order someone persuade someone remind someone <i>tell</i> someone <i>warn</i> someone

PATTERN 2 'You must remember to book the hotel later.'

→ *He reminded me to book the hotel later.*

3 verb
+ *-ing*
form

no preposition

admit advise consider regret suggest

+ preposition

*admit to apologise for complain about insist on
thank someone for*

PATTERN 3 *'I'm sorry I lost your umbrella.'*

→ She *apologised for losing my umbrella.*

PATTERN 1 *'I'm getting married in July.'*

→ *Simon announced that he was getting married in July.*

PATTERN 2 *'You must remember to book the hotel later.'*

→ *He reminded me to book the hotel later.*

PATTERN 3 *'I'm sorry I lost your umbrella.'*

→ *She apologised for losing my umbrella.*

Some reporting verbs (shown in blue above) can have two or more patterns:

*The boys **admitted** that they had broken the office window. / The boys **admitted** breaking the office window. / The boys **admitted** to breaking the office window.*

When a reporting verb is followed by a preposition (e.g. *thank someone for*), we always use the *-ing* form of the verb that follows:

*She thanked me for **helping** her.*

3

Report what Jim said yesterday.

1 ‘I’ve just started at Manchester University.’

Jim said he ...

2 ‘I’m studying Engineering.’

Jim told me ...

3 ‘I’ve made lots of new friends.’

Jim told me ...

4 ‘We went to a fantastic concert last weekend.’

Jim told me that they ...

5 ‘We’re going to the Lake District at the weekend.’

Jim told me that ...

6 'I'll call you tomorrow.'

Jim said ...

7 'I went to a brilliant lecture this morning.'

Jim said ...

8 'I live in a flat with three other students.'

Jim told me ...

9 'We're having a party tonight.'

Jim said ...

3

Report what Jim said yesterday.

1 ‘I’ve just started at Manchester University.’

Jim said he ... had just started at Manchester University

2 ‘I’m studying Engineering.’

Jim told me ... (that) he was studying Engineering

3 ‘I’ve made lots of new friends.’

Jim told me ... (that) he had made lots of new friends

4 ‘We went to a fantastic concert last weekend.’

Jim told me that they ... had gone to a fantastic concert last weekend/the weekend before

5 ‘We’re going to the Lake District at the weekend.’

Jim told me that ... they were going to the Lake District that weekend/the next weekend/the following weekend

6 ‘I’ll call you tomorrow.’

Jim said ... (that) he would call me tomorrow/the next day

7 ‘I went to a brilliant lecture this morning.’

Jim said ... (that) he had gone to a brilliant lecture that morning/this morning

8 ‘I live in a flat with three other students.’

Jim told me ... (that) he lived in a flat with three other students

9 ‘We’re having a party tonight.’

Jim said ... (that) they were having a party that night

Report the questions.

- 1 'Do you know where the post office is?'
She asked ...
- 2 'Where can I change some money?'
He asked ...
- 3 'Have you been here before?'
She asked ...
- 4 'What time did the meeting finish this morning?'
He asked me ...
- 5 'Will you look after the plants for me?'
She asked ...
- 6 'Did you go to the cinema last night?'
They asked if we ...
- 7 'What time did you arrive?'
She asked ...
- 8 'Are you meeting anyone here?'
He asked ...

Report the questions.

- 1 'Do you know where the post office is?'
She asked if I knew where the post office was
- 2 'Where can I change some money?'
He asked where he could change some money
- 3 'Have you been here before?'
She asked if I had been there before
- 4 'What time did the meeting finish this morning?'
He asked me what time the meeting had finished that morning
- 5 'Will you look after the plants for me?'
She asked if I would look after the plants for her
- 6 'Did you go to the cinema last night?'
They asked if we had gone to the cinema last night/the night before
- 7 'What time did you arrive?'
She asked what time I/we had arrived
- 8 'Are you meeting anyone here?'
He asked if I was meeting anyone here/there

Reported speech

Additional practice

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/reported-speech-1-statements>

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/reported-speech-2-questions>

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/reported-speech-3-reporting-verbs>