



What Is Reported Speech?

Reported speech is the form in which one can convey a message said by oneself or someone else, mostly in the past. It can also be said to be the third person view of what someone has said. In this form of speech, you need not use quotation marks as you are not quoting the exact words spoken by the speaker, but just conveying the message.

Now, take a look at the following dictionary definitions for a clearer idea of what it is.

Definition of Reported Speech

Reported speech, according to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, is defined as "a report of what somebody has said that does not use their exact words." The Collins Dictionary defines reported speech as "speech which tells you what someone said, but does not use the person's actual words." According to the Cambridge Dictionary, reported speech is defined as "the act of reporting something that was said, but not using exactly the same words." The Macmillan Dictionary defines reported speech as "the words that you use to report what someone else has said."

Rules to be Followed When Using Reported Speech

Reported speech is a little different from [direct speech](#). As it has been discussed already, reported speech is used to tell what someone said and does not use the exact words of the speaker. Take a look at the following rules so that you can make use of reported speech effectively.

- The first thing you have to keep in mind is that you need not use any quotation marks as you are not using the exact words of the speaker.
- You can use the following formula to construct a sentence in the reported speech.

Subject said that (report whatever the speaker said)

- You can use [verbs](#) like said, asked, requested, ordered, complained, exclaimed, screamed, told, etc. If you are just reporting a [declarative sentence](#), you can use verbs like told, said, etc. followed by 'that' and end the sentence with a [full stop](#). When you are reporting interrogative sentences, you can use the verbs – enquired, inquired, asked, etc. and remove the [question](#)

[mark](#). In case you are reporting [imperative sentences](#), you can use verbs like requested, commanded, pleaded, ordered, etc. If you are reporting [exclamatory sentences](#), you can use the verb exclaimed and remove the [exclamation mark](#). Remember that the structure of the sentences also changes accordingly.

- Furthermore, keep in mind that the [sentence structure](#), [tense](#), [pronouns](#), [modal verbs](#), some specific [adverbs of place](#) and [adverbs of time](#) change when a sentence is transformed into indirect/reported speech.

Transforming Direct Speech into Reported Speech

As discussed earlier, when transforming a sentence from direct speech into reported speech, you will have to change the pronouns, tense and adverbs of time and place used by the speaker. Let us look at the following tables to see how they work.

Table 1 – Change of Pronouns

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
I	He, she
Me	Him, her
We	They
Us	Them
You	He, she, they
You	Him, her, them
My	His, her
Mine	His, hers
Our	Their
Ours	Theirs

Your	His, her, their
Yours	His, hers, theirs

Table 2 – Change of Adverbs of Place and Adverbs of Time

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
This	That
These	Those
Adverbs of Place	
Here	There
Adverbs of Time	
Now	Then
Today	That day
Tomorrow	The next day / The following day
Yesterday	The previous day
Tonight	That night
Last week	The week before
Next week	The week after
Last month	The previous month

Next month	The following month
Last year	The previous year
Next year	The following year
Ago	Before
Thus	So

Table 3 – Change of Tense

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Simple Present Example: Preethi said, "I cook pasta."	Simple Past Example: Preethi said that she cooked pasta.
Present Continuous Example: Preethi said, "I am cooking pasta."	Past Continuous Example: Preethi said that she was cooking pasta.
Present Perfect Example: Preethi said, "I have cooked pasta."	Past Perfect Example: Preethi said that she had cooked pasta.
Present Perfect Example: Preethi said, "I have been cooking pasta."	Past Perfect Continuous Example: Preethi said that she had been cooking pasta.
Simple Past Example: Preethi said, "I cooked pasta."	Past Perfect Example: Preethi said that she had cooked pasta.
Past Continuous Example: Preethi said, "I was cooking pasta."	Past Perfect Continuous Example: Preethi said that she had been cooking pasta.
Past Perfect	Past Perfect (No change)

Example: Preethi said, "I had cooked pasta."	Example: Preethi said that she had cooked pasta.
Past Perfect Continuous Example: Preethi said, "I had been cooking pasta."	Past Perfect Continuous (No change) Example: Preethi said that she had been cooking pasta.

Table 4 – Change of Modal Verbs

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Will	Would
May	Might
Can	Could
Shall	Should
Has/Have	Had

Tips to Practise Reported Speech

Here are some tips you can follow to become a pro in using reported speech.

- Select a play, a drama or a short story with dialogues and try transforming the sentences in direct speech into reported speech.
- Write about an incident or speak about a day in your life using reported speech.
- Develop a story by following prompts or on your own using reported speech.

Examples of Reported Speech

Given below are a few examples to show you how reported speech can be written. Check them out.

- Santana said that she would be auditioning for the lead role in *Funny Girl*.
- Blaine requested us to help him with the algebraic equations.
- Karishma asked me if I knew where her car keys were.
- The judges announced that the Warblers were the winners of the annual acapella competition.

- Binsha assured that she would reach Bangalore by 8 p.m.
- Kumar said that he had gone to the doctor the previous day.
- Lakshmi asked Teena if she would accompany her to the railway station.
- Jibin told me that he would help me out after lunch.
- The police ordered everyone to leave from the bus stop immediately.
- Rahul said that he was drawing a caricature.

Check Your Understanding of Reported Speech

Transform the following sentences into reported speech by making the necessary changes.

1. Rachel said, "I have an interview tomorrow."
2. Mahesh said, "What is he doing?"
3. Sherly said, "My daughter is playing the lead role in the skit."
4. Dinesh said, "It is a wonderful movie!"
5. Suresh said, "My son is getting married next month."
6. Preetha said, "Can you please help me with the invitations?"
7. Anna said, "I look forward to meeting you."
8. The teacher said, "Make sure you complete the homework before tomorrow."
9. Sylvester said, "I am not going to cry anymore."
10. Jade said, "My sister is moving to Los Angeles."

Now, find out if you have answered all of them correctly.

1. Rachel said that she had an interview the next day.
2. Mahesh asked what he was doing.
3. Sherly said that her daughter was playing the lead role in the skit.
4. Dinesh exclaimed that it was a wonderful movie.
5. Suresh said that his son was getting married the following month.
6. Preetha asked if I could help her with the invitations.
7. Anna said that she looked forward to meeting me.

8. The teacher told us to make sure we completed the homework before the next day.
9. Sylvester said that he was not going to cry anymore.
10. Jade said that his sister was moving to Los Angeles.

Read the following sentences and change them into reported speech

1. Suman said, "I get up early every morning."
2. The maths teacher said, "three multiplied by three is nine."
3. The tourist said, "India is a very beautiful country."
4. Tina said, "It is hot outside."
5. The teacher said, "The Sepoy Mutiny took place in 1857."
6. Ira said, "I saw an elephant in the zoo."
7. Peter said, "I can do this work."
8. Uma said to her mother, "I have passed the exam".
9. Ajay said to Lucy, "I will go to Bangalore tomorrow."
10. Lewis said, "my mother is sleeping."
11. Tamal said to Naira, "When are you leaving?"
12. "Where do you live?" the old man asked Timothy.
13. The teacher asked Arjun, "Why are you talking?"
14. Olena said to Andrew, "Bring me my rifle."
15. "Call the first convict," said the jury.
16. "Please call the ambulance," said the woman.
17. Betty said to me, "I will cook today's dinner."
18. The teacher said to me, "You are very intelligent."
19. My mother said to me, "Please wait here till I come back."
20. The coach said to David, "Bravo! You have played well."
21. Ramen said, "Alas! My kitten passed away."
22. Bruce said, "I may go to the party."
23. Miss Davis said to the student, "Did you listen to me?"
24. The lady said, "Let me come in."
25. Granny said to me, "May God bless you."
26. The policeman said to us, "Where are you going?"
27. The boy shouted, "Let me go."
28. Shilpa said, "Alas! I am undone."
29. "I know his address," said Rupert
30. Punit said, "My mother is writing letters."
31. Rishav said to Roshni, "Have you ever been to the Taj Mahal?"
32. Anu said to Shivina, "Please lend me a pencil."
33. Logan said, "When are you coming home?"

34. Rory said to her colleagues, "We have successfully achieved our goal."
35. The teacher said to the students, "Make sure you hand over your papers before 12 p.m."
36. My mom said, "Everything is going to be fine."
37. Luke said, "I will cook for you tomorrow."
38. Manisha said, "I think I will have a shot at it next year."
39. Soumia said, "I am wearing a black dress for Achu's reception."
40. The manager said, "All the rooms have been allocated according to your choices."
41. My grandmother said, "I have some work to do."
42. Lakshmi said, "I am a tailor."
43. Madhav said, "The cricket team did their best."
44. Dhoni said, "Can you help me with the luggage?"
45. My parents said, "We loved the passion fruit dessert."
46. Danny said, "I am starting work from tomorrow."
47. The police officer said, "We are investigating the matter."
48. Emily said to Richard, "You are raising your voice."
49. Josh said, "I love shrimp."
50. Naomi said, "Was Farsana present yesterday?"

Answers

1. Suman said that she got up early every morning.
2. The maths teacher said that three multiplied by three is nine
3. The tourist said that India was a very beautiful country.
4. Tina said that it was hot outside.
5. The teacher said that the Sepoy Mutiny took place in 1857.
6. Ira said that she saw/had seen an elephant in the zoo.
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19. My mother requested me to wait there till she returned.
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50. Naomi asked if Farsana was present the previous day.