

Reported Speech

Task 1

Rewrite these direct speech sentences as reported speech. You do not need to change any verb tenses.

1. The report states, 'the committee can hold office for only one year.'
 - The report states that the committee can hold office for only one year.
2. The residents are not civic-minded,' said the councilor.
 - The councilor said that the residents are not civic-minded.
3. 'There is no gold in Pekan,' said the old man. (informal)
 - The old man said there is no gold in Pekan.
4. The witness said, 'The man with the mole stole the wallet.'
 - The witness said that the man with the mole stole the wallet.
5. The teachers complained, 'This year's students are not serious enough.'
 - The teachers complained that this year's students are not serious enough.
6. Neela said, 'Jeha always fooled around in class.' (informal)
 - Neela said Jeha always fooled around in class.

Task 2

Read the summary below and circle the verbs used to report the discussion.

The discussion focused on education as priority for government spending. Some of the participants **think** that education is the most top priority for governments. Other people **believe** that things like health and transport are equally important. One view is that the government should cut university courses such as media studies and history, because these do not help the economy. The main reasons for not cutting education are that you need education to produce important professionals such as doctors, teachers, and engineers. One participant **argues** that if the government cut education there would be problems in the future. Overall, there was no final agreement.

Task 3

Complete the table with the reporting verbs below according to similarity of meaning.

Discuss state indicate point out speculate on highlight
believe stress feel argue demonstrate illustrate

Say	Talk about	Think	Emphasize	Show	Suggest
state	discuss	feel	indicate	demonstrate	speculate on
	argue	believe	highlight	illustrate	
			stress	point out	

Task 4

Use the reporting verb *emphasize* in its correct form to complete sentences 1-4.

1. It has been highlighted that a vegetarian diet can have important health benefits.
2. Geissler and Powers (2011) highlight That age is an important factor in vegan diet.
3. A number of researchers indicate that the importance of a balanced diet nutritional intake in vegetarians.
4. Langley (1995, p.18) highlights how a vegan diet is healthier than a meat-based diet.

Task 5

Read the excerpt below and answer the following questions using the appropriate reporting verbs.

A recent government initiative in the UK suggest giving individuals £50 vouchers to buy healthy goods at participating outlets. This is perhaps a waste of public money. Harrison (2010,p.025)(1)_____ that this is not effective use of public funds, as it is open to abuse, for example, supposing people want cash rather than voucher. Johnson (2001) (2)_____ such scheme for their short-termism and not dealing with the issue. Perhaps, as Gonzales and Parker(2003) (3)_____ a better option would be community involvement, not just individual involvement. If the people around an

individual or group like a family or community take action to improve their conditions; an individual is then more likely to follow, as Cooper (2007) (4)_____. With proper encouragement and support, this strategy is much more likely to lead a long-term behavior change than the distribution of vouchers.

1. (Strong)

a. claims

b. suggest

2. (Strong)

a. thinks

b. criticizes

3. (tentative)

a. propose

b. state

4. (neutral)

a. points out

b. argue

Passives

Exercise 1 (Passive with Modal Verbs)

Change each sentence into Passive form.

1. You may forget the rules quickly.
The rules may be forgotten quickly.
2. You should study the lessons repeatedly.
The lessons should be studied repeatedly.
3. They should cancel the game.
The game should be canceled by them.
4. The doctor cannot persuade her.
She cannot be persuaded by the doctor.
5. They must repair my car.
My car must be repaired by them.

Exercise 2 (Passive with Reporting Verbs)

Fill in the blanks with correct form of verbs in the bracket.

1. He is considered to be (be) a good president.
2. The company is said to have lost (lose) more than 100 million dollars last month.
3. It is rumored he has left (leave) his position in the company.
4. The paintings are reported to have been destroyed (destroy) in the fire.
5. The fossil is believed to date (date) back to the Ice Age era.
6. It is thought that the competition is going to be (be) very tough.
7. The witness is expected to testify (testify) later this afternoon.
8. The suspect is known to have left (leave) the city after the murder.
9. The new iPhone is thought to come out (come out) next January.
10. He is said to have left (leave) the meeting after an argument with his superiors.