

Reported speech 1 (He said that ...)

A

Study this example situation:



You want to tell somebody what Paul said.
There are two ways of doing this:

You can repeat Paul's words (direct speech):
Paul said 'I'm feeling ill.'

Or you can use reported speech:
Paul said **that he was feeling ill.**

Compare:

<i>direct</i>	Paul said ' I am feeling ill.'
<i>reported</i>	Paul said that he was feeling ill.

In writing we use these quotation marks to show direct speech.

B

When we use reported speech, the main verb of the sentence is usually past (Paul **said** that ... / I **told** her that ... etc.). The rest of the sentence is usually past too:

- ☐ Paul **said** that he **was feeling** ill.
- ☐ I **told** Lisa that I **didn't have** any money.

You can leave out **that**. So you can say:

- ☐ Paul **said that** he was feeling ill. or Paul **said** he was feeling ill.

In general, the *present* form in direct speech changes to the *past* form in reported speech:

am/is → was	do/does → did	will → would
are → were	have/has → had	can → could
want/like/know/go etc. → wanted/liked/knew/went etc.		

Compare direct speech and reported speech:

You met Anna. Here are some of the things she said in *direct* speech:

My parents **are** fine.
I'm going to learn to drive.

I **want** to buy a car.
John **has** a new job.
I **can't** come to the party on Friday.
I **don't** have much free time.
I'm going away for a few days.
I'll phone you when I **get** back.



ANNA

Later you tell somebody what Anna said.
You use *reported* speech:

- ☐ Anna said that her parents **were** fine.
- ☐ She said that she **was** going to learn to drive.
- ☐ She said that she **wanted** to buy a car.
- ☐ She said that John **had** a new job.
- ☐ She said that she **couldn't** come to the party on Friday.
- ☐ She said she **didn't** have much free time.
- ☐ She said that she **was** going away for a few days and **would** phone me when she **got** back.

C

The *past simple* (**did/saw/knew** etc.) can usually stay the same in reported speech, or you can change it to the *past perfect* (**had done / had seen / had known** etc.):

- ☐ *direct* Paul said 'I **woke** up feeling ill, so I **didn't go** to work.'
- reported* Paul said (that) he **woke** up feeling ill, so he **didn't go** to work. or
Paul said (that) he **had woken** up feeling ill, so he **hadn't gone** to work.