

GRAMMAR

# Reviewing reported speech

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B1\_3112G

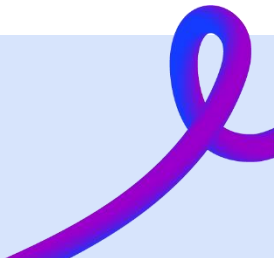
**LANGUAGE**

English



## Learning outcomes

- I can use reported speech to talk about what somebody else has said or thought.
- I can accurately use reported speech to report a request.




# Imagine you see this advert

What company might it be for? **Share** your ideas with the group.



# Imagine you see this advert

1. **Review** the two screenshots from skincare company *DELITE*'s website.
2. **Discuss** them with a partner. Would you buy the product or not?



***DELITE's anti-aging cream** revitalises your skin and will leave it looking **younger than ever!** If not, we'll refund you your full amount.*

*Experience our **exceptional customer service.** We are consistently rated as having the best service in the industry!*

**DELITE**  
*beauty is skin deep*



# Reading

1. **Read** three online reviews of *DELITE's* anti-aging cream.
2. **Answer** the questions below.



Jane



They promised their cream would leave my skin looking younger than ever, so I thought I'd give it a go. Wow! I know they said their cream was good, but not *this* good!



Didn't receive any delivery info, so I sent an email asking them to send me my tracking number. I got a reply within 10 mins. Definitely some of the best customer service out there!



Toby



Yvonne



Was a bit sceptical at first because of all the 5-star reviews from people that claimed this cream had worked miracles on them, but honestly, it works! Try it for yourself!

Who had trouble with their order?

How did they solve those problems?

Who mentions other customers?

Who refers to the company's claims?





I was a bit **sceptical** at first because of all the 5-star reviews!

Did Yvonne trust the company at the beginning or not?

Why do some people have doubts about products with lots of 5-star reviews?



# Using reported speech

1. **Read** the example from the text.
2. **Review** the grammar explanation below.



Jane

**They promised their cream would leave my skin looking younger than ever!**

- We use reported speech to refer to what someone else **said** or **thought**.
- We can also use it to **review a product** or **a company**.

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Comparing direct and reported speech

1. **Look at** the examples below. 2. **Read** the explanation.



***DELITE's anti-aging cream* revitalises your skin and will leave it looking younger than ever!**



**They promised that their cream would leave my skin looking younger than ever!**

- The first sentence uses **direct speech**.
- The company is making a promise. It's telling its customers what the cream will do.
- The second sentence uses **reported speech**.
- Jane is referring to the promises *DELITE* made about their cream.





# Forming reported speech

1. **Read through** the grammar explanation.
2. **Compare** the rules with the example.

*DELITE's anti-aging cream* **will** leave **your** skin looking younger than ever!



They **promised** that their cream **would** leave **my** skin looking younger than ever!

- We introduce reported speech using a **reporting verb**. This verb is usually in the **past simple**.
- After the reporting verb, we can add **that**.
- We can also leave **that** out.

- When we transform **direct speech** into **reported speech**:
- We usually put the **verb** in the **past**.
- We change the **pronoun** to reflect who is now speaking.



# Forming reported speech

1. **Review** two more examples of reported speech.
2. **Answer** the questions in the blue box below.

**'Our cream is good!'**

➤ **They said their cream was good.**

**'The cream has worked miracles for all of us!'**

➤ **The customers claimed it had worked miracles for them.**

- Why do we change *is* to *was* and *has* to *had*?
- Why do we change *our* to *their* and *us* to *them*?

---

---

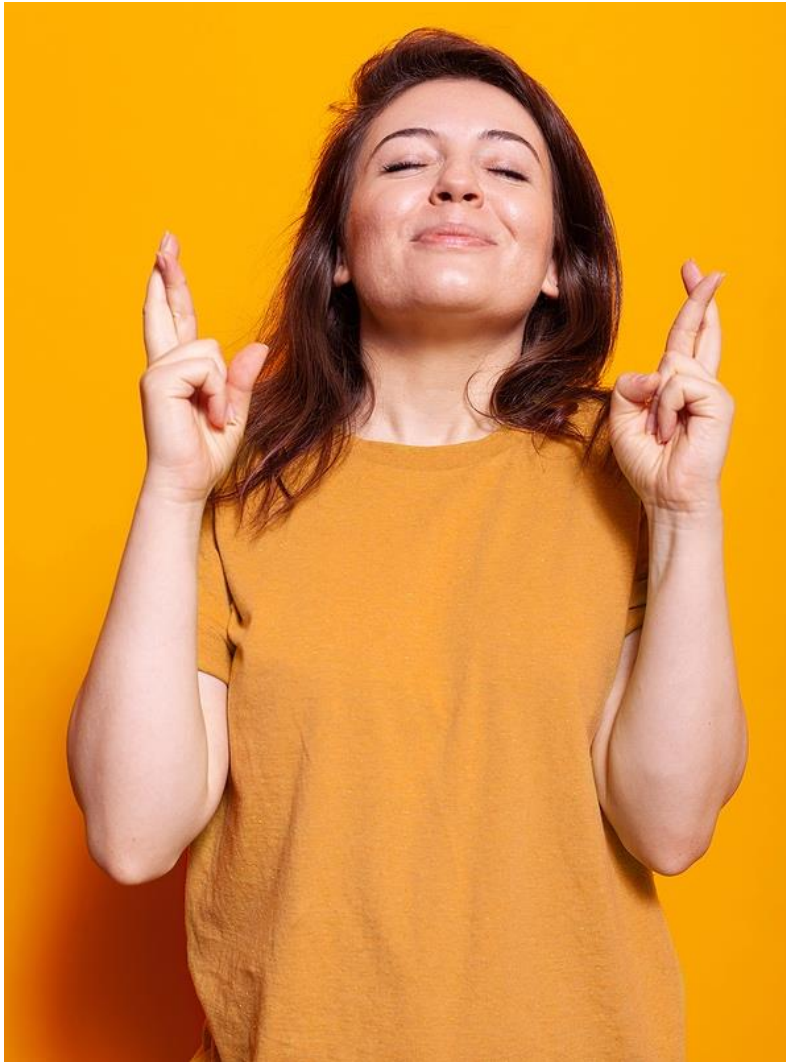
---

---

---

---





The customers **claimed** the cream had worked miracles for all of them.

**Claimed** is often used in reviews. It means to say *something is true, without actually proving it!*

For example: *The company **claimed** that the product would change my life, but, it didn't, sadly!*



# Transform into reported speech

**Turn** each review of the newest book by Peter Johan into reported speech.

1 Maria: 'The characters are very likeable.'



She **claimed** the characters were very likeable.

2 Jacob: 'The book is boring and too long!'



3 Danielle: 'I don't know yet. I'm still reading it.'



4 Michael: 'I won't read another book of his.'



5 Bob: 'The ending seems quite unrealistic'.



6 Kathleen: 'I can't read his work. Too poetic!'



# Reporting orders and requests

1. **Read** the explanation in the left box.
2. **Look at** the example below.
3. **Complete** the task in the right box.

Can you send me my tracking number, please?



I **asked them to send** me my tracking number.

- We also use reported speech to relay **requests** or **orders**.
- We use **asked** or **told** here.
  - Both verbs need a **direct object** + **'to' infinitive**. The object is who we gave the request or order to:
  - (e.g. I **asked them** to do something; I **told her** to do something)

**Asked** or **told**?

**Compare:**

- I **asked him** to buy me DELITE's cream.
- I **told him** to buy me DELITE's cream.

Which reports an order?

Which reports a polite request?

# Reporting orders and requests

1. **Look at** the four examples of direct speech on the right.
2. **Complete** the sentences on the left using reported speech.
3. **Use** *asked* or *told* in your answer.

1. Harry was eating too quickly. Sophie \_\_\_\_\_.
2. His computer was broken, so Brian went to the shop and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. My boss was worried about missing the deadline, so she \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I had a headache, so I texted my brother and \_\_\_\_\_.

'Can you fix it, please?'

'Will you bring me some painkillers?'

'Finish the project a.s.a.p.'

'Slow down!'





# Discuss in breakout rooms or as a class



**Have you ever bought something that ended up disappointing you?**

What was it?

What did the product claim to do?

What did the product *actually* do though?

If in breakout rooms, share a summary of your partner's story!





# End of the lesson

Idiom

***thrilled to bits***

**Meaning:** very happy

**Example:** I was thrilled to bits with that product. It's great!



# Additional practice



# Transform into reported speech

Transform the direct speech into **reported speech**, **requests** or **orders**. There might be more than one correct answer for some.

1 'Can you help me?' Jane asked.



Jane asked me to help her.

2 'The product is a miracle-worker!' said Matt.



3 'You should drink less coffee,' Ben said.



4 'I don't like the new sunscreen I bought,' said Sara.



5 'Please go upstairs and tidy your room,' said Dad.



6 'My friends all love their new face cream,' said Julie.





# Reported speech

Work in a group of four if you can and **each transform one sentence into reported speech**. Check your answers with your teacher.

- 1 'Go and apologise to him immediately!'
- 2 'Can you open the jar for me?'
- 3 'We love the product but sometimes it turns our skin green.'
- 4 'I buy it every week for my friends.'







# Reporting speech

1. Ask your partner the questions below.
2. Then tell the class or your teacher what they said using reported speech.

What was the last thing you bought connected to your hobby?

Why did you buy it?  
Did it take you a long time to decide to get it?

Are you happy with what you bought?





## Good advice



**What's a great  
piece of advice  
you've received?**

**Tell the class about it using  
reported speech.**





# Answer key

**P. 5:** Toby had trouble with his order;  
Toby solved the problem by sending the company an email;  
Yvonne mentions other customers.  
Jane talks about the company's claims.

**P. 12:** **Suggested answers:**  
1. Jacob said that the book was boring and too long;  
2. Danielle said that she didn't know yet and she was still reading it.  
3. Michael said that he wouldn't read another book of his (the author);  
4. Bob claimed/said that the ending seemed quite unrealistic;  
5. Kathleen said that she couldn't read his work as it was too poetic.

**P. 13:** Order: *told*; Polite request: *asked*

**P. 14:** **Suggested answers:**  
1. Sophie told him to slow down.  
2. Brian asked them to fix it.  
3. She told me to finish the project a.s.a.p.  
4. (I) asked him to bring me some painkillers.



## Answer key

- P. 19:**
2. Matt said [that] the product was a miracle-worker.
  3. Ben said [that] I should drink less coffee/Ben told me to drink less coffee.
  4. Sara said [that] she didn't like the new sunscreen she had bought.
  5. Dad asked/told me to go upstairs and tidy my room.
  6. Julie said [that] her friends all loved their new face cream.
- P. 20:**
1. He/she told me to go and apologise to him immediately.
  2. He/she asked me to open the jar for him/her.
  3. They said [that] they loved the product but sometimes it turned their skin green.
  4. He/she said [that] she bought it every week for his/her friends.



# Summary

## Using reported speech

- We use reported speech to say what **someone else** said or thought.
- For example, to refer to another person's **beliefs** or **opinions** or to **review** a company.

## Forming reported speech

- We introduce reported speech using a **reporting verb**. This verb is usually in the **past simple**.
- After the reporting verb, we can add *that* but can also leave *that* out.
- When we transform direct speech into reported speech we usually put the **verb** in the **past** and we **change the pronoun** to reflect who is now speaking.

## Reporting requests and orders

- We use ***asked*** or ***told*** to report requests and orders.
- Both verbs need a **direct object + *to* infinitive**. The object is who we gave the request or order to (e.g. I asked them to do something.; I told her to do something).
- *Ask* is for a request; *told* is for an order.



# Vocabulary

sceptical

to claim

to revitalise

exceptional



