

Reported speech - Grammar

Reported speech is often also called "*indirect speech*". When we use reported speech, we are usually talking about the past (because obviously the person who spoke originally spoke in the past). The verbs therefore usually have to be in the past too. For example:

Direct speech	Reported speech
"I always drink coffee". She said.	She said that she always drank coffee.

- To mention about somebody said we use the verbs "explain, promise, say, tell, suggest". The most used are say and tell.
- It is not necessary to change the tense of the verb if it is in the principal sentence in present: "She said that she always **drink** coffee"
- Many times we use "that" although is not necessary

Table about the changes of the verbs

Direct speech	Reported speech
present simple	past simple
I am happy	He said he was happy
I sleep	He said he slept
present continuos	past continuos
I am feeling happy	He said he was feeling happy
I am sleeping	He said he was sleeping
past simple	past perfect
I was happy	He said he had been happy
I slept	He said he had slept
present perfect	past perfect
I have been happy	He said he had been happy
I have slept	He said he had slept
present perfect continuos	past perfect continuos
I have been feeling happy	He said he had been feeling happy
I have been sleeping	He said he had been sleeping
Future	simple conditional
I will be happy	He said he would be happy
I will sleep	He said he would sleep

future perfect	simple conditional perfect
I will have been happy	He said he would have been happy
I will have sleep	He said he would have slept

Table about the Modal Verbs

Direct speech	Reported speech
CAN	COULD
I can sleep	He said he could sleep
MAY	MIGHT
I may sleep	He said he might sleep
WILL	WOULD
I will sleep	He said he would sleep
MUST	HAD TO
I must sleep	He said he had to sleep

Table about the changes in places or times

Now	at that moment, then
Tonight	that night
Today	that day
last night	the night before
this morning	that morning
this week	that week
next week	the following week
next year	the year after
Here	there

Question Forms

1. **Normal word order** is used in report questions, that is, the subject comes before the verb, and is not necessary to use 'do' or 'did'.

"Where does Peter live?"	She asked him where Peter lived
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2. **Yes / no questions:** This type of questions is reported by using 'ask' + if / whether + clause:

"Do you speak English?"	He asked me if I spoke English.
"Are you British or American?"	He asked me whether I was British or American.
"Is it raining?"	She asked if it was raining.
"Have you got a computer?"	He wanted to know whether I had a computer.
"Can you type?"	She asked if I could type.
"Did you come by train?"	He enquired whether I had come by train.
"Have you been to Bristol before?"	She asked if I had been to Bristol before.

3. **Question words:** This type of question is reported by using 'ask' (or another verb like 'ask') + question word + clause. The clause contains the question, in normal word order and with the necessary tense change:

"What is your name?" he asked me.	He asked me what my name was.
"How old is your mother?", he asked	He asked how old her mother was.
The policeman said to the boy, "Where do you live?"	The policeman asked the boy where he lived.
"What time does the train arrive?" she asked.	She asked what time the train arrived.
"When can we have dinner?" she asked	She asked when they could have dinner.
Peter said to John, "Why are you so late?"	Peter asked the John why he was so late.

Vocabularies about the news



Newspaper



Magazines



Blogger



Headline



Article



Column

Vocabularies about the news



Reporter



Broadcast



Photographer



Celebrities



Editor



Journalist