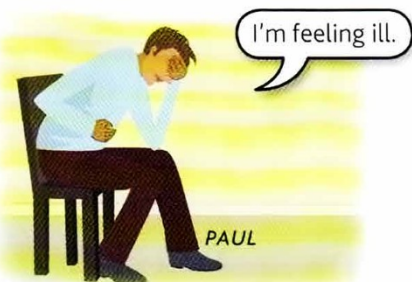


Reported speech 1 (He said that ...)

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:

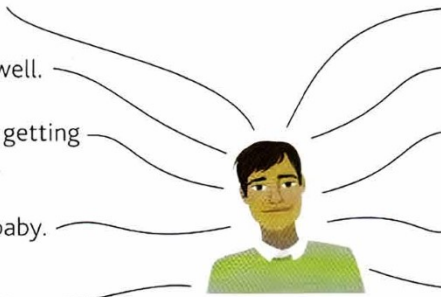
- ☐ Anna said that her parents **were** fine.
- ☐ She said that she **was** going to learn to drive.
- ☐ She said that she **wanted** to buy a car.
- ☐ She said that John **had** a new job.
- ☐ She said that she **couldn't** come to the party on Friday.
- ☐ She said she **didn't** have much free time.
- ☐ 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.

Exercises

47.1 Yesterday you met a friend of yours, Steve. You hadn't seen him for a long time. Here are some of the things Steve said to you:

- 
- 1 I'm living in London.
- 2 My father isn't very well.
- 3 Rachel and Mark are getting married next month.
- 4 My sister has had a baby.
- 5 I don't know what Joe is doing.
- 6 I saw Helen at a party in June and she seemed fine.
- 7 I haven't seen Amy recently.
- 8 I'm not enjoying my job very much.
- 9 You can come and stay at my place if you're ever in London.
- 10 My car was stolen a few days ago.
- 11 I want to go on holiday, but I can't afford it.
- 12 I'll tell Chris I saw you.
- Steve**

Later that day you tell another friend what Steve said. Use reported speech.

- 1 Steve said that he was living in London.
- 2 He said that
- 3 He
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

47.2 Somebody says something to you which is not what you expected. Use your own ideas to complete your answers.

- 1 A: It's quite a long way from the hotel to the station.
B: Is it? The man on the reception desk said *it was only five minutes' walk*
- 2 A: Sue is coming to the party tonight.
B: Is she? I saw her a few days ago and she said she
- 3 A: Sarah gets on fine with Paul.
B: Does she? Last week you said each other.
- 4 A: Joe knows lots of people.
B: That's not what he told me. He said anyone.
- 5 A: Jane will be here next week.
B: Oh, really? When I spoke to her, she said away.
- 6 A: I'm going out tonight.
B: Are you? I thought you said home.
- 7 A: John speaks French quite well.
B: Does he? He told me any other languages.
- 8 A: I haven't seen Ben recently.
B: That's strange. He told me last weekend.

Reported speech 2

A

It is not always necessary to change the verb in reported speech. If the situation *is still the same*, you do not need to change the verb to the past. For example:

- ☐ *direct* Paul said 'My new job **is** boring.'
- reported* Paul said that his new job **is** boring.
(The situation is still the same. His job **is** still boring now.)
- ☐ *direct* Helen said 'I **want** to go to Canada next year.'
- reported* Helen told me that **she wants** to go to Canada next year.
(Helen still wants to go to Canada next year.)

You can also change the verb to the past:

- ☐ Paul said that his new job **was** boring.
- ☐ Helen told me that she **wanted** to go to Canada next year.

But if the situation has changed or finished, you *must* use a past verb:

- ☐ Paul left the room suddenly. He said **he had** to go. (*not* has to go)

B

You need to use a past form when there is a difference between what was said and what is really true. For example:

You met Sonia a few days ago.

She said: **Joe is in hospital.**

Later that day you meet Joe in the street. You say:

Hi, Joe. I didn't expect to see you. Sonia said you **were** in hospital.
(*not* 'Sonia said you are in hospital', because clearly he is not)



C

Say and tell

If you say *who* somebody is talking to, use **tell**:

- ☐ Sonia **told me** that you were in hospital. (*not* Sonia said me)
- ☐ What did you **tell the police**? (*not* say the police)

Otherwise use **say**:

- ☐ Sonia **said** that you were in hospital. (*not* Sonia told that ...)
- ☐ What did you **say**?

But you can '**say** something **to** somebody':

- ☐ Ann **said** goodbye **to** me and left. (*not* Ann said me goodbye)
- ☐ What did you **say to** the police?



D

Tell/ask somebody to do something

We also use the infinitive (**to do** / **to be** etc.) in reported speech, especially with **tell** and **ask** (for orders and requests):

- ☐ *direct* 'Drink plenty of water,' the doctor said to me.
- reported* The doctor **told me to drink** plenty of water.
- ☐ *direct* 'Don't be late,' I said to Joe.
- reported* I **told Joe not to be** late.
- ☐ *direct* 'Can you help me, please,' Jackie said to me.
- reported* Jackie **asked me to help** her.

You can also say 'Somebody **said (not) to** do something':

- ☐ Paul **said not to worry** about him. (*but not* Paul said me)

Exercises

48.1 Here are some things that Sarah said to you:



I've never been to the United States.

I don't have any brothers or sisters.

I can't drive.

I don't like fish.

Jane has a very well-paid job.

I'm working tomorrow evening.

Jane is a friend of mine.

Dave is lazy.

But later Sarah says something different to you. What do you say?

Sarah

- 1 Dave works very hard.
- 2 Let's have fish for dinner.
- 3 I'm going to buy a car.
- 4 Jane is always short of money.
- 5 My sister lives in Paris.
- 6 I think New York is a great place.
- 7 Let's go out tomorrow evening.
- 8 I've never spoken to Jane.

You

But you said he was lazy.

But

48.2 Complete the sentences with **say** or **tell** (in the correct form). Use only one word each time.

- 1 Ann said goodbye to me and left.
- 2 told us about your holiday. Did you have a nice time?
- 3 Don't just stand there! say something!
- 4 I wonder where Sue is. She said she would be here at 8 o'clock.
- 5 Dan told me that he was bored with his job.
- 6 The doctor told that I should rest for at least a week.
- 7 Don't say anybody what I said. It's a secret just between us.
- 8 'Did she say you what happened?' 'No, she didn't say anything to me.'
- 9 Gary couldn't help me. He told me to ask Chris.
- 10 Gary couldn't help me. He told to ask Chris.

48.3 The following sentences are direct speech:

Don't wait for me if I'm late.

Mind your own business.

Don't worry, Sue.

Please slow down!

Can you open your bag, please?

Could you get me a paper?

Hurry up!

Will you marry me?

Do you think you could give me a hand, Tom?

Now choose one of these to complete each of the sentences below. Use reported speech.

- 1 Will was taking a long time to get ready, so I told him to hurry up.
- 2 Sarah was driving too fast, so I asked her to slow down.
- 3 Sue was nervous about the situation. I told her not to worry.
- 4 I couldn't move the piano alone, so I asked Tom for help.
- 5 The security guard looked at me suspiciously and said to mind my business.
- 6 Tom was going to the shop, so I told him not to wait for me.
- 7 The man started asking me personal questions, so I said to tell him to stop.
- 8 John was in love with Marianne, so he told her to marry him.
- 9 I didn't want to delay Helen, so I said to hurry up.

In questions we usually put the subject after the first verb:

verb + subject

Tom	will	→	will	Tom?
you	have	→	have	you?
the house	was	→	was	the house?

- ☐ **Will Tom** be here tomorrow?
- ☐ **Have you** been working hard?
- ☐ When **was the house** built?

Remember that the subject comes after the *first* verb:

- ☐ Is Katherine working today? (*not* Is working Katherine)

In *present simple* questions, we use **do/does**:

you live → **do** you **live**?
the film starts → **does** the film **start**?

- ☐ Do you **live** near here?
- ☐ What time **does** the film **start**?

In *past simple* questions, we use **did**:

you sold → **did** you **sell**?
the train stopped → **did** the train **stop**?

- ☐ Did you **sell** your car?
- ☐ Why **did** the train **stop**?

But do not use **do/does/did** if **who/what** etc. is the subject of the sentence. Compare:

who *object*

Emma phoned **somebody** .

object

Who **did** Emma **phone**?

who *subject*

somebody phoned Emma.

subject

Who **phoned** Emma?

In these examples, **who/what** etc. is the subject:

- ☐ **Who wants** something to eat? (*not* Who does want)
- ☐ **What happened** to you last night? (*not* What did happen)
- ☐ **How many people came** to the meeting? (*not* did come)
- ☐ **Which bus goes** to the centre? (*not* does go)

Note the position of prepositions in questions beginning **Who/What/Which/Where ... ?**:

- ☐ **Who** do you want to speak **to**?
- ☐ **Which** job has Tina applied **for**?
- ☐ **What** was the weather **like** yesterday?
- ☐ **Where** are you **from**?

You can use *preposition* + **whom** in formal style:

- ☐ **To whom** do you wish to speak?

Isn't it ... ? / Didn't you ... ? etc. (negative questions)

We use negative questions especially to show surprise:

- ☐ **Didn't you** hear the doorbell? I rang it three times.

or when we expect the listener to agree with us:

- ☐ 'Haven't we met before?' 'Yes, I think we have.'

Note the meaning of **yes** and **no** in answers to negative questions:

- ☐ **Don't you** want to go? { **Yes.** (= Yes, I want to go)
No. (= No, I don't want to go)

Note the word order in negative questions beginning **Why ... ?**:

- ☐ **Why don't we** eat out tonight? (*not* Why we don't eat)
- ☐ **Why wasn't Emma** at work yesterday? (*not* Why Emma wasn't)