

Reported speech 1

We need to get a birthday present for Amy. What should we buy for her?



I like computer games.



Let's get her a computer game.
She said she liked computer games.

The new Sizters CD is great.



No, let's get her a CD. She said
the new Sizters CD was great.

In this unit we look at how to use reported speech to talk about what someone said.

She said she liked computer games. **She said the new Sizters CD was** great.





Reported speech

We use reported speech to report, or talk about, what someone said.

The new Sizters CD is great.

She said the new Sizters CD was great.



Andy is using reported speech to tell Tina what Amy said.

Sentences with reported speech often begin with **subject + said** and then use most of the words that the person used in the original sentence. To make reported speech, we often change the verb of the original sentence from present simple tense to past simple tense.

For example:

is ➤ was

has ➤ had

like ➤ liked

are ➤ were

need ➤ needed

feel ➤ felt

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

REPORTED SPEECH

The new Sizters CD **is** great.

Amy said the new Sizters CD **was** great.

The cakes **are** delicious.

He said the cakes **were** delicious.

The cat **likes** fish and chicken.

She said the cat **liked** fish and chicken.

A. Complete the sentences in reported speech, changing the verbs from present to past.

1. The computer is broken.

He said the computer was broken.

2. The boys are at the park.

She said the boys were at the park.

3. The tickets are very expensive.

Mother said the tickets were very expensive.

4. *Winter Again* is a boring film.

Dave said *Winter Again* was a boring film.

5. The plants need some water.

Father said the plants needed some water.



Changing pronouns

If someone uses a subject pronoun, we sometimes need to change the subject pronoun to make reported speech. This is because a different person is now speaking.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

I like pizza.

You are a good student.

We are hungry.

Yes, **we're** hungry.

REPORTED SPEECH

He said **he** liked pizza.

She said **I** was a good student.

They said **they** were hungry.

In reported speech, it's important to pay attention to who is speaking and who is being spoken about.

B. Complete the sentences in reported speech. Write different subject pronouns and change the verbs from present to past.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

1. I need help in the kitchen.

2. I am busy.

3. We want something to drink.

4. I feel sick.

REPORTED SPEECH

He said he needed help in the kitchen.

She said she was busy.

They said they wanted something to drink.

She said she felt sick.

C. Read the sentences in reported speech, and then complete the original sentences.

REPORTED SPEECH

1. Mrs Hill said I was a good singer.

2. Mr Riley said he was very angry.

3. Mother said I looked sleepy.

4. Mia said she had a cousin in America.

5. Jack said I played the piano very well.

6. Father said he needed a pen and paper.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

You are a good singer.

I am very angry.

You look sleepy.

I have a cousin in America.

You play the piano very well.

I need a pen and paper.



Changing possessive adjectives

Sometimes we also need to change a possessive adjective to make reported speech.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

- My** dog is naughty.
- Your** drawing is the best.
- Your** projects are all excellent.
- I love **my** new bicycle.

REPORTED SPEECH

- She said **her** dog was naughty.
- He said **my** drawing was the best.
- She said **our** projects were all excellent.
- He said **he** loved his new bicycle.

D. Complete the sentences in reported speech using the possessive adjectives from the box.

his his my my ~~her~~ her their their

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

1. My father is a police officer.
2. We want our lunch.
3. I tidy my room every day.
4. I share a room with my sister.
5. I like your new shoes.
6. You are my best friend.
7. Your writing is very neat.
8. We love our new puppy.

REPORTED SPEECH

- She said her father was a police officer.
- They said they wanted their lunch.
- He said he tidied his room every day.
- She said she shared a room with her sister.
- He said he liked my new shoes.
- He said I was his best friend.
- She said my writing was very neat.
- They said they loved their new puppy.

E. Read the sentences in reported speech. Then complete the original sentences.

REPORTED SPEECH

1. He said his dog was twelve years old.
2. He said he knew my cousin.
3. She said her new game was a lot of fun.
4. They said their flat was on the top floor.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

- My dog is twelve years old.
- I know your cousin.
- My new game is a lot of fun.
- Our flat is on the top floor.

F. Read what the people say. Complete the paragraphs in reported speech using the words in the boxes.

1.

I like playing computer games.
My favourite game is called
"Fantasy Island."



She said she liked
playing computer games. She
said her favourite game
was called "Fantasy
Island."



her ~~she~~ liked was

2.

My grandparents live on
a farm in the country.
They grow vegetables. I
go there every summer.



He said his grandparents lived
in the country. He said they grew
vegetables. He said he went
there every summer.



he ~~his~~ went grew lived

Review

A. Complete the sentences in reported speech.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE	REPORTED SPEECH
1. The water is cold.	He said <u>the water was cold.</u>
2. Chicken is my favourite food.	She said <u>chicken was her favourite food.</u>
3. My father works in the city.	He said <u>his father worked in the city.</u>
4. We want to go home.	They said <u>they wanted to go home.</u>
5. I brush my teeth twice a day.	He said <u>he brushed his teeth twice a day.</u>
6. It is a very funny film.	She said <u>it was a very funny film.</u>
7. We like skating.	They said <u>they liked skating.</u>
8. I play football and hockey.	He said <u>he played football and hockey.</u>
9. I live with my grandparents.	She said <u>she lived with her grandparents.</u>

B. Read the sentences in reported speech. Complete the original sentences.

REPORTED SPEECH	ORIGINAL SENTENCE
1. Father said he needed a holiday.	<u>I need a holiday.</u>
2. Mother said my room was very messy.	<u>Your room is very messy.</u>
3. Mr Babar said I was a hard worker.	<u>You are a hard worker.</u>
4. Mrs Siddiq said she liked my drawing.	<u>I like your drawing.</u>
5. They said their parents were away.	<u>Our parents are away.</u>
6. She said she grew tomatoes on her balcony.	<u>I grow tomatoes on my balcony.</u>
7. He said his new bicycle went really fast.	<u>My new bicycle goes really fast.</u>
8. Andy said Amy and Tina were at the shops.	<u>Amy and Tina are at the shops.</u>

Unit 10 Reported speech 2

Structures

Auxiliaries in reported speech
Negatives in reported speech
told

Sample language

Father said he was going to visit Grandmother.
Mother said we were having fish for dinner.
She said she could speak Spanish.
He said he would be home at seven o'clock.
He said he wasn't going to the park.
Tina told Dave she was angry.

Key vocabulary

message, could, would, email, told

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Explain that in the conversation on this page, Andy is given a message by his father which he must then report to his mother. Assign the roles of Andy, father and mother to students and ask them to read out their parts.

Ask students to underline the changes between the father's message and Andy's report to his mother. (Father: *I'm going to visit Grandmother on my way home from work. I'll be home at seven o'clock.* Andy: *He said he was going to visit Grandmother on his way home from work. He told me he would be home at seven o'clock.*)

Read the message and reported speech again and ask students to repeat after you.

Discuss the changes that have been made (changes to auxiliary verbs, pronouns, and possessive adjectives; use of *he said* and *He told me*). On the board, write out the verbs in two columns:

Original sentence

am going
will be

Reported speech

was going
would be

Discuss how in reported speech, auxiliary verbs in the present simple change to the past simple.

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A. Complete the sentences in reported speech, changing the auxiliary verbs from present to past.

This activity focuses on the change to the verb *be*. Before asking students to do this activity, refer them to the grammar box at the top of the page.

B. Complete the sentences in reported speech, using **had**.

This activity focuses on the change to the verb *have*. Refer students to the grammar box above Activity B.

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C. Complete the sentences in reported speech, using **could**.

This activity focuses on the change to the verb *can*. Refer students to the grammar box at the top of the page.

D. Complete the sentences in reported speech, using **would**.

This activity focuses on the change to the verb *will*. Refer students to the grammar box above Activity D.

E. Read the sentences in reported speech. Then complete the original sentences.

Students change reported speech into direct speech. In this activity, they put into practice all that they have learned so far in this unit about changes to auxiliary verbs in reported speech.

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F. Complete the sentences in reported speech.

This activity focuses on negative sentences in reported speech. Refer students to the grammar box at the top of the page.

G. Read the sentences in reported speech. Then complete the original sentences.

Students change reported speech back into direct speech in negative sentences.

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H. Complete the sentences in reported speech, using **told me**.

This activity focuses on the use of *told me* as an alternative to *said*. Students change the direct speech to reported speech using *told me*.

I. In each pair of sentences, one sentence is correct and the other is incorrect. Put ✓ beside the correct sentences and ✗ beside the incorrect ones.

In this activity, students focus on the different patterns used with *said* and *told me* in reported speech (that is, *told* is always followed by an object while *said* is not). Before they start the activity, refer students to the grammar box at the top of the page.

Page 68 Review

A. Read what the people say. Then complete the paragraphs in reported speech using the words in the boxes.

Students complete sentences in reported speech using the words in the boxes and the sentences in speech bubbles.

Andy, I want you to give your mother a message.



Okay, father.



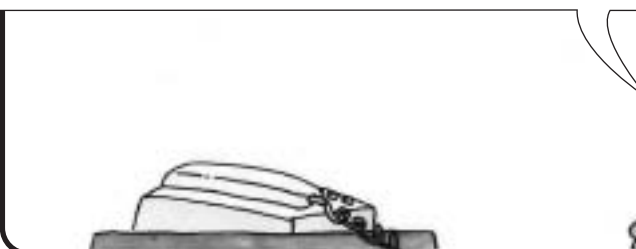
I'm going to visit grandmother on my way home from work. I'll be home at seven o'clock. Can you tell her that, please?



Sure, father.



Father called. He said he was going to visit grandmother on his way home from work. He told me he would be home at seven o'clock.



Thanks, Andy.



In this unit we look at how to use reported speech with auxiliary verbs. We also look at how to use **told** to introduce reported speech.

He said he was going to visit grandmother on his way home from work.

He told me he would be home at seven o'clock.

G



Auxiliaries in reported speech

If a sentence has an auxiliary verb in it, we change the auxiliary from present simple tense to past simple tense in reported speech. The main verb does not change.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

*I **am** going to visit grandmother.
Aunty Rita **is** coming tonight.
We **are** having fish for dinner.*

REPORTED SPEECH

*Father said he **was** going to visit grandmother.
Ben said Aunty Rita **was** coming tonight.
Mother said we **were** having fish for dinner.*

A. Complete the sentences in reported speech, changing the auxiliary verbs from present to past.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. I am learning Tae Kwon Do. | He said he <u>was learning Tae Kwon Do.</u> |
| 2. We are going home. | They said they <u>were going home.</u> |
| 3. I am enjoying the book. | She said she <u>was enjoying the book.</u> |
| 4. Amy is going to be late. | He said Amy <u>was going to be late.</u> |
| 5. It is going to be a cold day. | She said it <u>was going to be a cold day.</u> |



had

If the auxiliary is **have**, we change **have** to **had** in reported speech.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

*I **have** been at school all day.*

REPORTED SPEECH

*Dave said he **had** been at school all day.*

B. Complete the sentences in reported speech, using **had**.

- I have been to Quetta twice.
He said he had been to Quetta twice.
- I have sent twenty emails this morning.
She said she had sent twenty emails this morning.
- We have been at the shopping centre all morning.
They said they had been at the shopping centre all morning.
- My grandparents have lived in Multan for a long time.
He said his grandparents had lived in Multan for a long time.

could

Could is the past tense of **can**. So we change **can** to **could** in reported speech.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

*I **can** speak Spanish.*

REPORTED SPEECH

*She said she **could** speak Spanish.***C. Complete the sentences in reported speech, using **could**.**

1. You can have this book. She said I could have this book.
2. I can bring some fruit. He said he could bring some fruit.
3. The dog can come inside. She said the dog could come inside.
4. Tina can sing very well. He said Tina could sing very well.

would

Would is the past tense of **will**. So we change **will** to **would** in reported speech.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

*I **will** be home at seven o'clock.*

REPORTED SPEECH

*He said he **would** be home at seven o'clock.***D. Complete the sentences in reported speech, using **would**.**

1. I will meet you at the station. He said he would meet me at the station.
2. The test will be easy. She said the test would be easy.
3. It will rain this afternoon. He said it would rain this afternoon.
4. I will bring the money. She said she would bring the money.

E. Read the sentences in reported speech, and then complete the original sentences.

REPORTED SPEECH

1. They said they were enjoying their holiday.
2. He said I would enjoy the film.
3. They said they could walk to the cinema.
4. She said she could play the piano.
5. He said he had seen that film four times.
6. He said he would bring his football.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

- We are enjoying our holiday.
 You will enjoy the film.
 We can walk to the cinema.
 I can play the piano.
 I have seen that film four times.
 I will bring my football.



Negatives

When we put negative sentences into reported speech, we change the auxiliary verbs, not the main verbs.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

*I'm **not** going to the park.*
*Brad **isn't** coming to the party.*
*We **aren't** staying for long.*
*I **don't** like cheese.*
*The drink machine **doesn't** work.*
*I **haven't** finished my homework.*
*I **can't** find my keys.*
*I **won't** come to the match.*

REPORTED SPEECH

*He said he **wasn't** going to the park.*
*She said Brad **wasn't** coming to the party.*
*They said they **weren't** staying for long.*
*He said he **didn't** like cheese.*
*She said the drink machine **didn't** work.*
*She said she **hadn't** finished her homework.*
*He said he **couldn't** find his keys.*
*She said she **wouldn't** come to the match.*

F. Complete the sentences in reported speech.

- My grandmother doesn't speak English.
He said his grandmother didn't speak English.
- I don't feel well.
She said she didn't feel well.
- I can't remember the phone number.
He said he couldn't remember the phone number.
- I won't be at school on Friday.
She said she wouldn't be at school on Friday.
- I'm not going to wear a jacket.
He said he wasn't going to wear a jacket.
- Imran isn't going to karate lessons this term.
She said Imran wasn't going to karate lessons this term.
- We aren't coming on the picnic.
They said they weren't coming on the picnic.
- I haven't read the email from Fahad.
She said she hadn't read the email from Fahad.

G. Read the sentences in reported speech. Then complete the original sentences.

REPORTED SPEECH

ORIGINAL SENTENCE

- He said I couldn't borrow his dictionary. You can't borrow my dictionary.
- She said she didn't need any help. I don't need any help.
- He said he couldn't open the window. I can't open the window.
- She said the bus wasn't running on time. The bus isn't running on time.

**told**

We often use **told** (the past tense of **tell**) instead of **said** to introduce reported speech. **Told** is always followed by an object. Compare these sentences with **said** and **told**:

SAID: Andy **said** he liked computer games. Hannah **said** she was angry.

TOLD: Andy **told me** he liked computer games. Hannah **told Dave** she was angry.

H. Complete the sentences in reported speech, using **told me.**

1. I will bring a bat and a ball. He told me he would bring a bat and a ball.
2. I write with my left hand. She told me she wrote with her left hand.
3. You can't borrow the ladder. He told me I couldn't borrow the ladder.
4. I am meeting Amy in the park. She told me she was meeting Amy in the park.
5. You will enjoy the party. She told me I would enjoy the party.

I. In each pair of sentences, one sentence is correct and the other is incorrect. Put ✓ beside the correct sentences and ✗ beside the incorrect ones.

1. Dave told the water was cold. ✗
Dave said the water was cold. ✓
2. Mother told me grandmother was ill. ✓
Mother told grandmother was ill. ✗
3. Mr Jamal said us the test was on Friday. ✗
Mr Jamal said the test was on Friday. ✓
4. Andy told Mrs Zaidi he wanted to go home. ✓
Andy said Mrs Zaidi he wanted to go home. ✗
5. Dave told Tina she wouldn't like the film. ✓
Dave told she wouldn't like the film. ✗
6. I said mother it was starting to rain. ✗
I told mother it was starting to rain. ✓
7. The man told us the cinema was full. ✓
The man said us the cinema was full. ✗
8. Sahar said me the DVD player was broken. ✗
Sahar said the DVD player was broken. ✓

Review

Read what the people say. Complete the paragraphs in reported speech using the words in the boxes.

1. I'm going to the aquarium with my family today. We are going to have lunch there. I will be home at three o'clock.



~~was~~ his they ~~he~~ he would were

He told me he was going to the aquarium with his family today. He said they were going to have lunch there. He said he would be home at three o'clock.

2. I'm very happy with you all. Your projects are all very good. I will give them back to you on Friday.



~~us~~ us ~~us~~ ~~she~~ she our ~~was~~ were would

She said she was very happy with us all. She told us our projects were all very good. She said she would give them back to us on Friday.

3. You can borrow my calculator. But you have to give it back at lunchtime. I need it for my lesson.



~~I~~ I he his could had needed

He said I could borrow his calculator. But he said I had to give it back at lunchtime. He said he needed it for his lesson.

Test 2

A. Complete the sentences using the verbs at the right. Put the verbs into the correct tense.

- If it _____ hot tomorrow, we _____ to the beach. **be, go**
- If Amy _____, I _____ her you are at the library. **call, tell**
- If we _____ the bus, my father _____ us to the cinema. **miss, drive**
- If you _____ all of that ice cream, you _____ sick! **eat, feel**
- If you _____ this hot engine, it _____ your hand. **touch, burn**
- If I _____ Rizwan, I _____ him about the meeting. **see, tell**

B. Complete these sentences using verbs from the box. Put the verbs into the correct tense, using **would** where you need to.

leave know blow buy be learn ask call

- If my sister had more money, she _____ more shoes.
- If there was a storm, the wind _____ the roof off that shed.
- If I went to live in France, I _____ to speak French.
- If I _____ a faster runner, I would be in the Olympics team.
- If I had a pet bird, I _____ it Tweety.
- If I _____ that boy's name, I would go and talk to him.
- If I saw a spider under the bed, I _____ it alone.
- If I got lost, I _____ someone for directions.

C. Complete the sentences using the past perfect of the verbs in the box. Use **had** or **hadn't**.

finish lose eat break read

- Mr Rahim couldn't start his car because he _____ his keys.
- Ed was hungry at nine o'clock because he _____ any breakfast.
- We couldn't turn on the new heater because we _____ the instructions.
- The team from Karachi was an hour late because their bus _____ down.
- Kathy didn't want us to look at her painting because she _____ it.

D. Complete the sentences in reported speech. Change the pronouns and possessive adjectives if you need to.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE	REPORTED SPEECH
1. My football team is the best.	He said _____
2. My dog runs very fast.	She said _____
3. We play football every Sunday.	They said _____
4. Danish's new haircut looks good.	Nabil said _____
5. I like strawberry ice cream.	She said _____
6. I am going to visit Naeem on Friday.	He said _____
7. Amy can run faster than me.	She said _____
8. You can come in our car.	They said I _____
9. It will take an hour to walk there.	He said _____
10. I haven't finished my lunch.	She said _____

E. Read the sentences in reported speech. Complete the original sentences.

REPORTED SPEECH	ORIGINAL SENTENCE
1. He said he lived near the park.	_____
2. She said that book was very good.	_____
3. She said she had a new bike.	_____
4. He said my sister was nice.	_____
5. He said he could speak French.	_____
6. She said the TV wasn't working.	_____
7. She said she felt unwell.	_____
8. She said she was going home.	_____
9. He said he would be late.	_____
10. She said she didn't like nuts.	_____

F. Complete the sentences in reported speech using **told me.**

- ORIGINAL SENTENCE: I will bring some fruit.
REPORTED SPEECH: He _____
- ORIGINAL SENTENCE: I can't come on Sunday.
REPORTED SPEECH: She _____
- ORIGINAL SENTENCE: I won't be long.
REPORTED SPEECH: He _____
- ORIGINAL SENTENCE: The test will be easy.
REPORTED SPEECH: She _____
- ORIGINAL SENTENCE: You can't bring your dog into the zoo.
REPORTED SPEECH: He _____

Grammar Round-up



Tick the correct sentences from 1 to 10.

1.

Brad was here since Saturday.

Brad been here since Saturday.

Brad has been here since Saturday.



2. All of these men are wearing ties.

Some of these men are wearing ties.

None of these men are wearing ties.



3.

Why Moiz is happy?

Why is Moiz happy?

Why Moiz happy?



4.

A window was break.

A window broken.

A window was broken.



5.

The ostrich is a bird it can't fly.

The ostrich is a bird that can't fly.

The ostrich is a bird who can't fly.





6. If we go this way, we seeing the seals. ___
 If we will go this way, we see the seals. ___
 If we go this way, we'll see the seals. ✓



7. If I saw a shark, I'd get out of the water. ✓
 If I saw a shark, I get out of the water. ___
 If I'd see a shark, I get out of the water. ___



8. When I got to the bus stop, the bus has just left. ___
 When I got to the bus stop, the bus had just left. ✓
 When I got to the bus stop, the bus had just leave. ___



9. She said she liked computer games. ✓
 She said she like computer games. ___
 She said liked computer games. ___

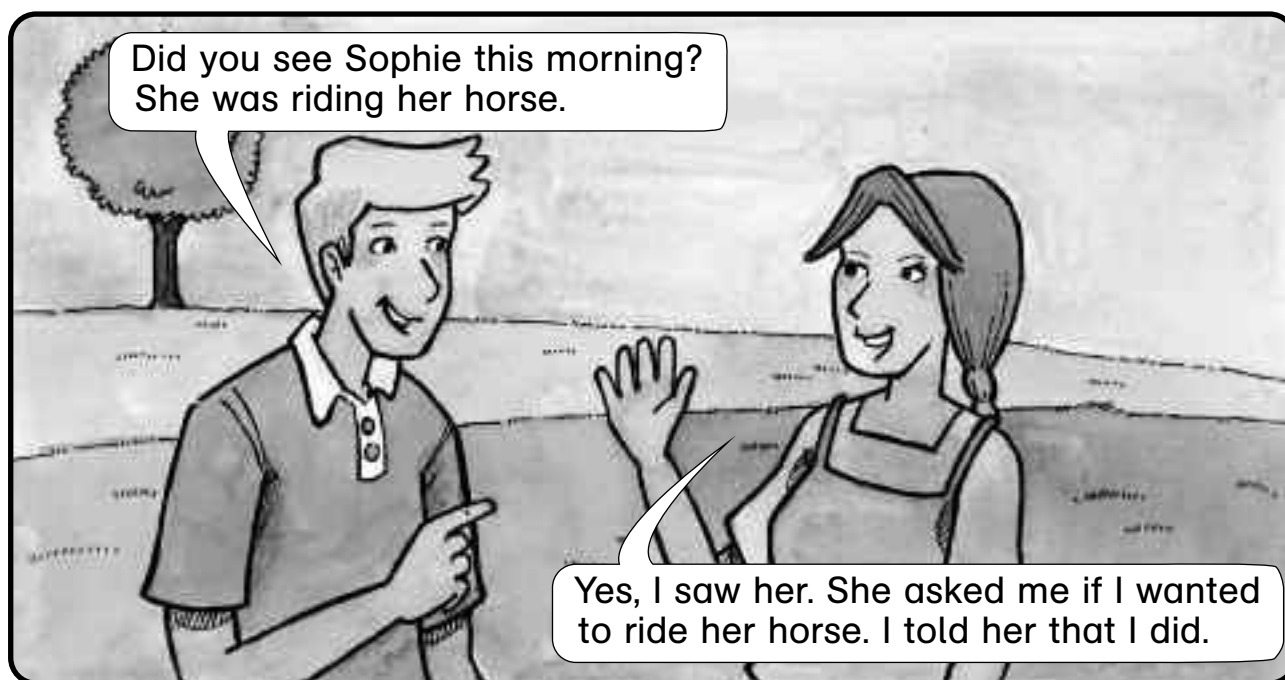


10. She told our projects were all very good. ___
 She said us our projects were all very good. ___
 She told us our projects were all very good. ✓

Well done! Here are the correct sentences.

1. Brad has been here since Saturday.
2. All of these men are wearing ties.
3. Why is Moiz happy?
4. A window was broken.
5. The ostrich is a bird that can't fly.
6. If we go this way, we'll see the seals.
7. If I saw a shark, I'd get out of the water.
8. When I got to the bus stop, the bus had just left.
9. She said she liked computer games.
10. She told us our projects were all very good.





In this unit we look at reported speech. We focus on how to use reported speech for questions and answers

She **asked me if I wanted to ride her horse. I told her that I did.**





Reporting 'Yes/No' questions

When we are reporting 'Yes/No' questions we can use **asked (me) + if** or **whether**. We can use either **if** or **whether**.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

Do you like my horse?

REPORTED QUESTION

*She asked me **if I liked** her horse.*

*She asked me **whether I liked** her horse.*

Note that we don't use a form of **to do** in the reported question. The main verb changes to the past tense. We change the pronouns because a different person is speaking.

If we use a modal or auxiliary verb, we change the tense of the modal or auxiliary verb from the present tense to the past tense. The participle or infinitive form of the verb stays the same.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

Can you ride a horse?

REPORTED QUESTION

*She asked me **if I could ride** a horse.*

*She asked me **whether I could ride** a horse.*

Are you wearing riding boots?

*He **asked me if I was wearing** riding boots.*

A. Complete the reported questions using **if** and then rewrite the reported questions using **whether**.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

1. Do you like tomatoes?

REPORTED QUESTION

She asked me if I liked tomatoes.

She asked me whether I liked tomatoes.

2. Does Tom go to school?

He asked me if Tom went to school.

He asked me whether Tom went to school.

3. Does Kelly walk to school?

She asked me if Kelly walked to school.

She asked me whether Kelly walked to school.

B. Complete the reported questions using **asked me + if**. Remember to change **can** to **could**.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

1. Can you play chess?

REPORTED QUESTION

He asked me if I could play chess.

2. Can you reach the shelf?

She asked me if I could reach the shelf.

3. Can you ride a bike?

She asked me if I could ride a bike.

4. Can you speak Spanish?

He asked me if I could speak Spanish.

C. Complete the reported questions using **asked me + whether**. Remember to change the tense of the auxiliary verbs.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

1. Are you learning French?

REPORTED QUESTION

She asked me whether I was learning French.

2. Is Jamil wearing a coat?

He asked me whether Jamil was wearing a coat.

3. Is Don coming to the party?

She asked me whether Don was coming to the party.

Reporting 'Wh' questions

When we report a 'Wh' question we use the same question word as in the original question.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

- Where** are you going?
When are you coming home?
Why are you laughing?
What are you eating?
Whom are you talking about?
How are you feeling?

REPORTED QUESTION

- He asked me **where I was going**.
 He asked me **when I was coming home**.
 He asked me **why I was laughing**.
 He asked me **what I was eating**.
 He asked me **whom I was talking about**.
 He asked me **how I was feeling**.

We change the tense of the auxiliary verb *are* from present tense to past tense, *was*. The main verb stays the same. Note that we change the pronouns because a different person is speaking. Also note that the subject comes before the auxiliary verb in the reported question.

D. Complete the reported questions using the correct question word.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

- Where are you studying?
- When are you going home?
- Why are you crying?
- Whom are you staring at?
- What are you doing?
- How are you enjoying school?
- Whom are you drawing?

REPORTED QUESTION

- Wendy asked me where I was studying.
 Eric asked me when I was going home.
 Anna asked me why I was crying.
 He asked me whom I was staring at.
 Father asked me what I was doing.
 She asked me how I was enjoying school.
 Mr Smith asked me whom I was drawing.

When the original question is formed using a form of **to do**, we don't use **to do** in the reported question. We change the main verb to the past tense.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

- Which toy do** you want?
Whom does Mel **sit** next to on the bus?

REPORTED QUESTION

- She asked me **which toy I wanted**.
 She asked me **whom Mel sat** next to on the bus.

E. Complete the reported questions.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

- What do you want to eat?
- Why does Sam run every day?
- Whom do you want to sit with?
- Which bus do you catch?

REPORTED QUESTION

- She asked me what I wanted to eat.
 He asked me why Sam ran every day.
 She asked me whom I wanted to sit with.
 He asked me which bus I caught.

6 Reported speech: questions

When the original question is formed with the present tense of **to be** we use the past tense of **to be** in the reported question. Note that the subject comes before the verb in the reported question.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

What is your name?

How old is Alia?

Where are the dogs?

REPORTED QUESTION

She asked me **what** my name **was**.

She asked me **how old** Alia **was**.

She asked me **where** the dogs **were**.



F. Complete the reported questions.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

1. Who is your teacher?

2. How old is your dog?

3. How is your mother?

4. Where is your house?

5. What is your favourite colour?

6. Why is the cat on your bed?

7. How are your grandparents?

8. Where are the clothes pegs?

REPORTED QUESTION

He asked me who my teacher was.

She asked me how old my dog was.

He asked me how my mother was.

She asked me where my house was.

She asked me what my favourite colour was.

He asked me why the cat was on my bed.

She asked me how my grandparents were.

He asked me where the clothes pegs were.

G. Write the reported questions using **He asked me**.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

1. Who is your best friend?

2. Where is the station?

3. When is break time?

4. Why is the door locked?

5. What is your phone number?

6. Who are those people?

REPORTED QUESTION

He asked me who my best friend was.

He asked me where the station was.

He asked me when break time was.

He asked me why the door was locked.

He asked me what my phone number was.

He asked me who those people were.

H. Put these words in the correct order to make reported questions.

1. late / Wali / why / asked / me / Mr / I / was Mr Wali asked me why I was late.

2. what / Hal / me / was / asked / the / time Hal asked me what the time was.

3. where / Bob / me / I / going / asked / was Bob asked me where I was going.

4. the / asked / Lisa / where / me / was / cat Lisa asked me where the cat was.

I. Write the original question for each reported question in H.

1. Why are you late?

2. What is the time?

3. Where are you going?

4. Where is the cat?

Question verbs in 'Yes/No' questions

When we report questions we often use the verb **asked**. There are other verbs we can use.

Some examples are: **wondered**, **questioned**, **wanted to know** and **inquired**.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

Do you like cheese?

Do you want some milk?

Can you swim?

Was the exam difficult?

REPORTED QUESTION

Doug **wondered** if I liked cheese.

Father **wanted to know** if I wanted some milk.

Mrs Newell **questioned** whether I could swim.

Mr King **inquired** if the exam was difficult.

Note that **questioned** and **inquired** are quite formal. The past simple form **was** in the original question can stay the same in the reported question.

J. Complete each reported question using the words in **bold**.

ORIGINAL QUESTION

REPORTED QUESTION

1. Is the gym open? (**inquired whether**)

He inquired whether the gym was open.

2. Do cats eat fruit? (**asked whether**) She asked whether cats ate fruit.

3. Was the film good? (**wondered if**) He wondered if the film was good.

4. Is Max twelve years old? (**questioned whether**)

She questioned whether Max was twelve years old.

5. Can anyone mend a flat tyre? (**wanted to know if**)

He wanted to know if anyone could mend a flat tyre.

Reporting answers to questions

We can also report answers to questions using a 'that' clause.

REPORTED QUESTION

Sam asked me whether I drank coffee.

REPORTED ANSWER

*I answered **that I did**.*

This is a short answer. We use past forms in reported answers, but we do not have to repeat the main verb and object. Some ways to reply are:

I told him/her that... I replied that... I answered that...

*Erica asked me if **I could** help her.*

*I told her **that I could**.*

Samina wondered if the cake was nice.

*I replied **that it was**.*

K. Complete each reported answer with **did**, **could** or **was**.

REPORTED QUESTION

REPORTED ANSWER

1. She asked me whether I watched TV.

I answered that I did.

2. Ian wondered whether I could play the guitar.

I told him that I could.

3. Jean inquired whether I was cold.

I replied that I was.

4. Jackie wanted to know if I liked orange juice.

I told her that I did.

Review

A. Write the original question for each reported question.

ORIGINAL QUESTION	REPORTED QUESTION
1. <u>Are you happy?</u>	John asked me if I was happy.
2. <u>Do you like art?</u>	Miss Watson asked me whether I liked art.
3. <u>Do you play tennis?</u>	George asked me if I played tennis.
4. <u>Are you ready to go?</u>	Alex asked me if I was ready to go.
5. <u>Do you want a sandwich?</u>	She asked me if I wanted a sandwich.

B. Rewrite each reported question correctly.

1. Sal asked me if I can read music.	<u>Sal asked me if I could read music.</u>
2. Donald asked me if I did like eggs.	<u>Donald asked me if I liked eggs.</u>
3. Val asked me if I am warm enough.	<u>Val asked me if I was warm enough.</u>
4. Mr Day asked me if I enjoy the film.	<u>Mr Day asked me if I enjoyed the film.</u>

C. Complete each reported question.

ORIGINAL QUESTION	REPORTED QUESTION
1. Where are you going?	John asked me <u>where I was going.</u>
2. Why are you leaving?	Ken asked me <u>why I was leaving.</u>
3. How are you getting home?	Mrs Judd asked me <u>how I was getting home.</u>
4. Which lollipop do you want?	Mother asked me <u>which lollipop I wanted.</u>

D. Write reported questions using **She** and the words in **bold**.

ORIGINAL QUESTION	REPORTED QUESTION
1. Can you draw? (asked me whether)	<u>She asked me whether I could draw.</u>
2. Are you busy tonight? (wondered if)	<u>She wondered if I was busy tonight.</u>
3. Are you a student? (questioned whether)	<u>She questioned whether I was a student.</u>
4. Do you live nearby? (wanted to know if)	<u>She wanted to know if I lived nearby.</u>

E. Rewrite each reported answer correctly.

REPORTED QUESTION	REPORTED ANSWER
1. He asked me if I could sing.	I told him that I can. <u>I told him that I could.</u>
2. She wondered if I liked music.	I answered that I was. <u>I answered that I did.</u>
3. Jill inquired if I was free for dinner.	I replied that I could. <u>I replied that I was.</u>
4. My mother asked me if I was tired.	I told her that I am. <u>I told her that I was.</u>

Reported Speech Exercises

Direct and Indirect

English (Precis & Composition) 2002

1. "Hurrah"! Said the captain of the team, "We won the match".
2. "Please Sir, take pity on a poor beggar woman", the wretched old woman asked for alms
3. They say. "Is this the right time to arrive? Aren't you forgetting something"?
4. He often says, "I am always willing to help the needy, if I am assured they are really in need".
5. The master said, "How long will you take in warming my food"6 The boy said. "Alas' I could not pass my examination"
7. "Come here quickly and work out this problem on the blackboard" said the teacher.
8. "What a lovely evening!" Said Irum.
9. "What is the name of this beautiful building?" asked the visitor.
10. He said "Sit down over here and don't move until I allow you"

Answers

1. The captain of the team exclaimed with joy that they had won the match.
2. The wretched old woman begged respectfully to take pity on her.
3. They ask me if that is the right time to arrive. If I am not forgetting something.
4. He often says that he is always willing to help the needy, if he is assured they are really in need.
- 5: The mother inquired me how long would I take in warming her food.
6. The boy exclaimed with sorrow that he could not pass his examination.
7. The teacher ordered to go there-quickly and work out that problem on the blackboard.
8. Irum exclaimed that it was a very lovely evening.
- 9 The visitor asked, what was the name of that beautiful building.
- 10 He ordered to sit down over there and not to move until he allows you.

**English (Precis &
Composition) 2003
Direct and Indirect**

- (1) "This is your house, isn't it?" asked Jemmie.
- (2) "Where do you want to be dropped?" said the taxi driver.
- (3) "Call The first witness," said the judge.
- (4) "Don't blame him for the accident," the boy's mother said.
- (5) He said, "I banged on Cliffs door but he did not answer".
- (6) "Where is the boat? Hurry up we are being chased", she cried.
- (7) "I have lost my way. Can you direct me to the Post Office please?" said the old lady.
- (8) He said to me, "what a pity you missed such an important meeting.
- (9) "How wonderful! Why didn't you suggest this plan earlier".
- (10) He said, "Let's wait till the road gets cleared".

Answers

- (1) Jemmie asked if it was my house.
- (2) The taxi driver inquired where he wanted to be dropped.
- (3) The judge ordered to call the first witness.
- (4) The boy's mother said not to blame him for the accident.
- (5) He said that he had banged on Cliffs door but he had not answered.
- (6) She exclaimed with fear where the boat was. She further advised us to hurry up, they were being chased.
- (7) The old lady requested that she had lost her way. She further asked, if they could direct her to the post office.
- (8) He said to me that it was a pity I missed such an important meeting.
- (9) He said to me that it was a pity; I missed such a important meeting.
- (10) He proposed that we should wait till the road gets cleared.

English (Precis & Composition) 2005 Direct and Indirect

- 1). Our sociology professor said , „I expect you to be in class every day. Unexcused absences may affect your grades.“
- 2). My father often told me, „every obstacle is a steppingstone to success. You should view problems in your life as opportunities to prove yourself.“
- 3). When tom asked Jack why he couldn“t go to the game, Jack said he didn“t have enough money for a ticket.
- 4). When I asked the ticket seller if the concert was going to be rescheduled, she told me that she didn“t know and said that she just worked there.
- 5). Ali said, „I must go to Lahore next week to visit my ailing mother.“
- 6). The policeman told the pedestrian, „you mustn“t cross the road against the red light“
- 7). Ahmed asked if what I said was really true.
- 8). Sarah wanted to know where they would be tomorrow around three O“clock

Answers

1. Our Sociology professor said that he expected us to be in class everyday because unexcused absences might affect our grades.
2. My father often advised me that every obstacle is a stepping stone to success and that I should view problems in my life as opportunities to prove myself.
3. Tom said to Jack, "Why he cannot go to the game?" Jack said, "I do not have enough money for a ticket."
4. I said to the ticket-seller, "Is the concert going to be rescheduled." She said to me, "I don't know.." "I just worked here."
5. Ali said that he must go to Lahore following week to visit his ailing mother.
6. The policeman forbade the pedestrian to not cross the road against the red light.
7. Ahmed said, "Ahmed asked what he said was really true."
8. Sarah said, "Where they will be tomorrow around 3 O'clock."

**English (Precis &
Composition) 2006
Direct and Indirect**

- (1) He said, "Let it rain ever so hard I shall go out".
- (2) The mother said to the young girl, "Do you know where salim is"?
- (3) The officer said, "Hand it all! Can you not do it more neatly".
- (4) Invoking our help with a loud voice she asked us whether we would come to her aid.
- (5) He exclaimed with an oath that no one could have expected such a turn of events.
- (6) The teacher said to his students, "Why did you come so late"?
- (7) They applauded him saying that he had done well.
- (8) "You say," said the judge, "the bag you lost contained one hundred and ten pounds"?

Answers

- (1) He suggested that he should go out in hard rain.
- (2) The mother asked the young girl if she knew where Salim was?
- (3) The officer ordered him to hang that all and asked. him if he could not do that more neatly.
- (4) She said to us with a loud voice. "Please, will you come to aid me?"
- (5) He said, "By God! No one can have accepted such a turn of events!" (6)The teacher asked his students why did they come so late.
- (7) They said, "Bravo! You have done well."
- (8) The judge inquired by him that the bag he lost contained one hundred and ten pounds.

- 1) This world, "he declared" is full of sorrow. Would that I were dead!"
- 2) He said to me, "come early; we shall be waiting for you."
- 3) "How delighted I am, "said he, "to meet my friends here by my own fireside!"
- 4) The man said that he was quite sure he should succeed.
- 5) John exclaimed with a sigh that he was ruined.
- 6) The constable enquired of the man where he was going
- 7) The boy said that he would walk.
- 8) What losses, cried he, "have I suffered? What anguish have I endured!"

Answers

- (2) He requested to me to come early, they would be waiting for him.
- (4) The man said, "I am quite sure I should succeed".
- (5) John said with a sigh, "Ah! I am ruined".
- (6) The constable asked the man. "Where is he going?"
- (7) The boy said. "I will walk"

- (1) He said to his friend, "Let me go home now"
- (2) I will say "Mother, I will always obey you"
- (3) "Splendid": said father as he read my report,
- (4) He said, "Good morning, can you help me"
- (5) She said "Brother, why do you tease me"
- (6) The King said to the Queen, "If I die, take care of my people"
- (7) "By God", he said" I do not know his name"
- (8) You exclaimed with sorrow that you lost your pen.

Answers

- (1) He said to his friend, "Let me go home now"
- (2) I will say "Mother, I will always obey you"
- (3) "Splendid": said father as he read my report,
- (4) He said, "Good morning, can you help me"
- (5) She said "Brother, why do you tease me"
- (6) The King said to the Queen, "If I die, take care of my people"
- (7) "By God", he said" I do not know his name"
- (8) You exclaimed with sorrow that you lost your pen.

- (1) He said to him, "why do you waste your time?"
- (2) He ordered his servant not to stand there doing nothing.
- (3) He exclaimed with joy that he had won the match.
- (4) The traveler said, "What a dark night?"
- (5) He said, "Let it rain even so hard, I will start today."
- (6) My mother said, "May you live happily and prosper in your life."
- (7) He said, "How foolish have I been?"

Answers

- (1) He asked him why he has wasted his time.
- (2) He said to his servant, "Do stand here doing nothing"
- (3) He said, "Hurrah! I have won the match"
- (4) The traveler exclaimed with wonder that it was a dark night.
- (5) He exclaimed that however hard it might rain, he would start that day.
- (6) My Mother prayed that I might live happily and prosper in my life.
- (7) He exclaimed with sorrow that he had been foolish.

- (1) On Monday he said, "My son is coming today."
- (2) They wanted to know where he was going the following week.
- (3) He said, "Did she go yesterday?"
- (4) 'By God', he said, "I do not know her nickname."
- (5) He says that we are to meet him at the station.
- (6) He said, "I don't know the way. ask the old man sitting on the gate."
- (7) My father prayed that i would recover from my illness
- (8) He said, "How will you manage it?"

Answers

- (1) On Monday he said that his son was coming that day.
- (2) They said where is he going the following week?
- (3) He said if she went previous day.
- (4) He swore that I did not know her nickname.
- (5) He says, "We are to meet him at station"
- (6) He said that I did not know the way and further suggested to ask the old man sitting on the gate.
- (7) My father said, may you recover from illness.
- (8) He enquired how I would manage that.

