

REPORTED SPEECH (INDIRECT SPEECH)

When we quote someone's words, we can do by repeating the same words (direct speech) or by reporting the words spoken (indirect speech). We can report statements, questions, commands, etc. The most important aspects are the changes in verbs time, expressions of time and place, personal pronouns and possessive adjectives. **Remember reported speech doesn't use quotation marks to enclose what the person said.**

TENSE CHANGES

DIRECT SPEECH → REPORTED SPEECH

Present simple → Past simple

I study He studied

Present continuous → Past continuous

I am studying He was studying

Present perfect → Past perfect

I have studied He had studied

Past simple → Past perfect

I studied He had studied

Past continuous → Past perfect continuous

I was studying He had been studying

Past perfect → No change

Past perfect continuous → No change

Future simple → Conditional simple

I will study He would study

Future continuous → Conditional continuous

I will be studying He would be studying

Can → Could

May → Might

Must / have to → Had

Should/could/would/might/ought to/used to → No change

Be careful with personal pronouns and possessive adjectives and pronouns, they need to be changed according to the situation.

He told me, "I saw you last week".

He told me that he had seen me the previous week.

I	ME	MY	MINE
YOU	YOU	YOUR	YOURS
HE	HIM	HIS	HIS
SHE	HER	HER	HERS
IT	IT	ITS	ITS
WE	US	OUR	OURS
THEY	THEM	THEIR	THEIRS

3. QUESTIONS

When we report questions, we don't follow the questions order. Instead, we use the word order of a statement.

Here are the common verbs: ask, want to know, wonder, enquire, etc.

3.A. YES / NO QUESTIONS: When we report questions that can be answered by yes or no, we use a noun phrase beginning with if or whether (this must be used when we are asking someone to make a choice).

- "Are you happy here", he said

He asked me if I was happy there.

- "Do you want coffee or tea", she asked me

She asked me whether I wanted coffee or tea.

TIME CHANGES

DIRECT SPEECH → REPORTED SPEECH

The day after tomorrow → in two days' time

Now → Then, that day

Today → that day

Yesterday → The day before, the previous day

Yesterday morning → The previous morning

Tomorrow → The next day, the following day

Tomorrow morning → The following morning

Next week → The following week, The next week

Last week → The previous week, The week before

Ago → before

The day before yesterday → two days before

The day after tomorrow → in two days' time

OTHER CHANGES

DIRECT SPEECH → REPORTED SPEECH

Here → there

This → that

These → those

Come → go

+ If the reporting verb is in present, there is no change in tense verb:

He says, "I love pizza". He says that he loves pizza.

+ Be careful with conditional sentences, type 1 change, but type 2 and 3 don't change.

1. STATEMENTS: A common way of reporting someone's words is by using a noun clause beginning with that. However, we usually omit that, especially when the reporting verb is say or think.

- He said, "I can't go to the cinema"

He said that he couldn't go to the cinema.

- He told her, "I bought you a present"

He told her that he had bought me a present.

2. COMMANDS AND REQUEST: When we report commands and request, we use the pattern: reporting verb + somebody to do something. Here are the common verbs: advise, ask, beg, command, order, tell,

- He said, "Sit down here, please"

He told me to sit down there

- He asked me, "Don't smoke in my office"

He asked me not to smoke in his office.

3.B. WH-QUESTIONS: When we report them, we use the wh-word, then we write the subject + the verb, ..

- He asked her, "Where have you been lately"

He asked her where she had been lately.

- He wanted to know, "Who discovered America?"

He wanted to know who had discovered America.

REWRITE THESE SENTENCES IN REPORT SPEECH

1. My friend said to her, "Have you ever eaten Japanese food?"
2. Sam said, "Smile and the picture will be very nice".
3. The policeman said to her, "You mustn't park in this place. It's banned".
4. I said to the policeman, "How can I go to the square?"
5. Peter said to him, "Are you going to London tomorrow morning?"
6. My friends said to me, "Hurry up or we are going to be late again".
7. Mary said to her, "The train leaves in 30 minutes".
8. My sister said to me, "How much did your new pair of jeans cost?"
9. I said to her, "Mary has been studying English all day".
10. The teacher said to the students, "Don't interrupt her while I am explaining".
11. Pam said to her brother, "Please post this letter for me. I can't go to the post office today".
12. The minister said, "I'm preparing my speech for tomorrow morning".
13. My teacher said, "The test will be next Monday".
14. He asked, "Which football team do you like?"
15. One of the students said to me, "Did you understand the exercises we have to do it?"
16. My mother said, "Switch off the lights before you leave home".
17. The doctor said to me, "You must stop smoking".
18. My mother said, "Save your money if you want to go on holiday with your friends this summer".
19. My mother said to me, "I want you to do your homework immediately".
20. My friend said, "It's hot, but it isn't as hot as it was yesterday".
21. "I didn't go to the theatre with them. I didn't like the play" Peter said
22. "I can't go to play tennis later. I have to study History," Maria told us
23. "Somebody stole my car yesterday. The police haven't found it yet," Maria told us
24. "Get out of your bed and tidy up your room", my mum said to me
25. "Can I have some tea, please", he asked.
26. "Why didn't you come to the party last Friday?" Pam asked John.
27. Peter said, "I'll have to study more if I want to pass my exams".
28. The kids said to the teacher, "Do you know other nice stories?"

29. The teacher said, "The Easter holidays will start in two weeks".
30. My mother wanted to know, "How long have you been surfing the Internet?"
31. My parents said, "Why nobody has bought any bread?"
32. The headmaster said to my mother, "Your daughter hasn't come to school today".
33. The librarian told us, "Be quiet in the library".
34. Susan asked Peter, "Where did you go last night?"
35. They said to me, "How old are you and what is your name?"
36. My parents told me, "Don't forget to buy some bread when you come back home"
37. The teacher said Mary, "You will fail your test if you don't study more".
38. Peter says, "I like chocolate ice-cream very much".
39. My mother asked her, "Why didn't you switch off the washing machine?"
40. "Please, don't smoke in this area", he said to me
41. He wanted to know, "Will the flight be delayed?".
42. Sam asked me, "How long have you been learning English?"
43. "Don't talk during the exam", the teacher told the pupils.
44. Mary said, "I'm travelling to London tomorrow because I want to buy some presents".
45. Peter said, "I always have tea for breakfast".
46. They wanted to know, "When will the meeting finish?"
47. The policeman asked the thief, "Have you stolen the diamond ring?"
48. Peter's mother asked him, "Where have you spent your money?"
49. "Don't eat so much chocolate", He said to her.
50. "Do you prefer tea or coffee?", Sam asked

KEY

1. MY FRIEND ASKED HER IF SHE HAD EVER EATEN JAPANESE FOOD
2. SAM TOLD ME TO SMILE AND THE PICTURE WOULD BE VERY NICE
3. THE POLICEMAN TOLD HER SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO PARK IN THAT PLACE BECAUSE IT WAS BANNED.
4. I ASKED THE POLICEMAN HOW I COULD GO TO THE SQUARE
5. PETER ASKED HIM IF HE WAS GOING TO LONDON THE FOLLOWING MORNING
6. MY FRIENDS TOLD ME TO HURRY UP OR WE WERE GOING TO BE LATE AGAIN
7. MARY TOLD HER THE TRAIN LEFT IN 30 MINUTES
8. MY SISTER ASKED ME HOW MUCH MY NEW PAIR OF JEANS HAD COST
9. I TOLD HER MARY HAD BEEN STUDYING ENGLISH ALL DAY
10. THE TEACHER TOLD THE STUDENTS NOT TO INTERRUPT HER WHILE SHE WAS EXPLAINING
11. PAM TOLD HER BROTHER TO POST THAT LETTER FOR HER BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T GO TO THE POST OFFICE THAT DAY
12. THE MINISTER HE WAS PREPARING HIS SPEECH FOR THE FOLLOWING MORNING
13. MY TEACHER SAID THE TEST WOULD BE THE FOLLOWING MONDAY
14. HE ASKED WHICH FOOTBALL TEAM I LIKED
15. ONE OF THE STUDENTS ASKED ME IF I HAD UNDERSTOOD THE EXERCISE WE / THEY HAD TO DO IT
16. MY MOTHER TOLD ME TO SWITCH OFF THE LIGHTS BEFORE I LEFT HOME
17. THE TEACHER TOLD ME I HAD TO STOP SMOKING
18. MY MOTHER TOLD ME TO SAVE MY MONEY IF I WANTED TO GO ON HOLIDAY WITH MY FRIENDS THAT SUMMER
19. MY MOTHER TOLD ME SHE WANTED ME TO DO MY HOMEWORK IMMEDIATELY
20. MY FRIEND SAID IT WAS HOT BUT IT WASN'T AS HOT AS IT HAD BEEN THE PREVIOUS DAY
21. PETER SAID HE HADN'T GONE TO THE THEATRE WITH THEM BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LIKE THE PLAY
22. MARIA TOLD US SHE COULDN'T GO TO PLAY TENNIS BECAUSE SHE HAD TO STUDY HISTORY
23. MARY TOLD US SOMEBODY HAD STOLEN HER CAR THE PREVIOUS DAY AND THE POLICE HADN'T FOUND IT YET
24. MY MUM TOLD ME TO GET OUT OF MY BED AND TIDY UP MY ROOM
25. HE ASKED ME TO HAVE SOME TEA
26. PAM ASKED JOHN WHY HE HADN'T COME TO THE PARTY THE PREVIOUS FRIDAY
27. PETER SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO STUDY MORE IF HE WANTED TO PASS HIS EXAMS
28. THE KIDS ASKED THE TEACHER IF HE KNEW OTHER NICE STORIES
29. THE TEACHER SAID THE EASTER HOLIDAYS WOULD START IN TWO WEEKS
30. MY MOTHER WANTED TO KNOW HOW LONG I HAD BEEN SURFING THE INTERNET
31. MY PARENTS ASKED WHY NOBODY HAD BOUGHT ANY BREAD
32. THE HEADMASTER TOLD MY MOTHER HER DAUGHTER HADN'T COME TO SCHOOL THAT DAY
33. THE LIBRARIAN TOLD US TO BE QUIET IN THE LIBRARY
34. SUSAN ASKED PETER WHERE HE HAD GONE THE PREVIOUS NIGHT
35. THEY ASKED ME HOW OLD I WAS AND WHAT MY NAME WAS
36. MY PARENTS TOLD ME NOT TO FORGET TO BUY SOME BREAD WHEN I CAME BACK HOME
37. THE TEACHER TOLD MARY SHE WOULD FAIL HER TEST IF SHE DIDN'T STUDY MORE
38. PETER SAYS HE LIKES CHOCOLATE ICE-CREAM VERY MUCH
39. MY MOTHER ASKED HER WHY SHE HADN'T SWITCHED OFF THE WASHING MACHINE
40. HE ASKED ME NOT TO SMOKE IN THAT AREA
41. HE WANTED TO KNOW IF THE FLIGHT WOULD BE DELAYED
42. SAM ASKED ME HOW LONG I HAD BEEN LEARNING ENGLISH
43. THE TEACHER TOLD THE PUPILS NOT TO TALK DURING THE EXAM
44. MARY SAID SHE WAS TRAVELLING TO LONDON THE NEXT DAY BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BUY SOME PRESENTS
45. PETER SAID HE ALWAYS HAD TEA FOR BREAKFAST
46. THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHEN THE MEETING WOULD FINISH
47. THE POLICEMAN ASKED THE THIEF IF HE HAD STOLEN THE DIAMOND RING
48. PETER'S MOTHER ASKED HIM WHERE HE HAD SPENT HIS MONEY
49. HE ASKED HIM NOT TO EAT SO MUCH CHOCOLATE
50. SAM ASKED WHETHER I PREFERRED TEA OR COFFEE