

### Reported speech

**Reported speech**, also known as **indirect speech**, is a way to convey what someone else has said without directly quoting their exact words. Instead of using quotation marks, the speaker paraphrases or summarizes the original statement.

### Types of Reported Speech

#### 1. Statements

- **Direct Speech:** "I love to play football," he said.
- **Reported Speech:** He said that he loved to play football.
- **Key Changes:**
  - **Tense:** Present Simple ("love") changes to Past Simple ("loved").
  - **Pronouns:** "I" changes to "he" to match the subject of the direct speech.

#### 2. Questions

- **Yes/No Questions:**
  - **Direct Speech:** "Are you going to the party?" she asked.
  - **Reported Speech:** She asked **if/whether** I was going to the party.
- **Wh-Questions:**
  - **Direct Speech:** "Where do you live?" he inquired.
  - **Reported Speech:** He inquired **where** I lived.
- **Key Changes:**
  - **Question Mark Removed:** Reported speech is not a question, so the question mark is removed.
  - **Word Order:** In reported yes/no questions, use "if" or "whether" followed by the subject and verb. In reported wh-questions, use the wh-word followed by the subject and verb.
  - **Tense Changes:** Similar to statements, tenses usually shift back one step.

#### 3. Commands and Requests

- **Direct Speech:** "Stop talking!" the teacher said.
- **Reported Speech:** The teacher **told** us to stop talking.
- **Direct Speech:** "Please help me," she requested.
- **Reported Speech:** She **requested** me to help her.
- **Key Changes:**

- **Reporting Verbs:** Use verbs like "told," "ordered," "requested," "advised," "commanded," "suggested," etc., depending on the tone of the original command or request.
- **Structure:** Use the infinitive form of the verb after the reporting verb (e.g., "to stop," "to help").

#### 4. Exclamations

- **Direct Speech:** "What a beautiful day!" she exclaimed.
- **Reported Speech:** She **exclaimed** that it was a beautiful day.
- **Direct Speech:** "Help!" she cried.
- **Reported Speech:** She **cried** for help.
- **Key Changes:**
  - **Reporting Verbs:** Use verbs like "exclaimed," "cried," "shouted," "wondered," etc., to reflect the emotion of the original utterance.
  - **Structure:** The structure may vary depending on the specific exclamation.

#### Practice Exercises

##### Exercise 1: Multiple Choice

1. **Direct Speech:** "I am going to the market," she said.  
**Reported Speech:** She said that she \_\_\_\_\_ going to the market.  
a) am going b) is going c) was going d) will go
2. **Direct Speech:** "Can you help me?" he asked.  
**Reported Speech:** He asked me if I \_\_\_\_\_ help him.  
a) can b) could c) may d) might
3. **Direct Speech:** "I have finished my homework," she said.  
**Reported Speech:** She said that she \_\_\_\_\_ finished her homework.  
a) has b) have c) had d) will have
4. **Direct Speech:** "I will visit my grandparents tomorrow," she said.  
**Reported Speech:** She said that she \_\_\_\_\_ visit her grandparents the next day.  
a) will b) would c) can d) could
5. **Direct Speech:** "Where do you live?" he asked.  
**Reported Speech:** He asked me \_\_\_\_\_ I lived.  
a) where b) when c) why d) how
6. **Direct Speech:** "Don't make a noise," the librarian said.  
**Reported Speech:** The librarian \_\_\_\_\_ us not to make a noise.  
a) told b) asked c) requested d) suggested
7. **Direct Speech:** "I may go for a walk later," she said.  
**Reported Speech:** She said that she \_\_\_\_\_ go for a walk later.  
a) may b) might c) can d) could

Ans.

1. c) was going
2. b) could
3. c) had
4. b) would
5. a) where

6. a) told
7. b) might

**Read the dialogue given below and then complete the passage that follows.**

1. Interviewer: So, why do you want to be a computer programmer?

Ravi: Well, I have always been interested in computers.

Interviewer: I see. Do you have any experience?

Ravi: No, but I'm a fast learner.

Interviewer: What kind of a computer do you use?

Ravi: Computer? Uhm, let me see. I can use a Mac. I also used Windows 10 once.

Interviewer: That's good.

Ravi recently attended an interview for the selection of a computer programmer. At the interview, he was asked

- (a).....To this question he replied that he wanted to change his job because  
(b) ..... When the interviewer asked him (e) .....he replied that he  
(d) ..... Finally, the interviewer wanted to know (e) .....Ravi  
replied that he could use a Mac and had also used Windows 10 once in the, past. The  
interviewer seemed to be pleased with his answers.

Answers:

- (a) why he wanted to be a computer programmer  
(b) he had always been interested in computers  
(c) whether he had any experience  
(d) didn't but that he was a fast learner  
(e) the kind of computer he used

2. Gardener: Did you water the plant today?

Dev: No, but I will today

Gardener: Then tomorrow I will get a sapling of sunflower.

The Gardener asked Dev (a) ..... Dev replied negatively but (b).....Then  
the gardener said that (c) .....

Answers:

- (c) if/whether he had watered the plant that day.  
(d) said he would that day.  
(e) he would get a sapling of a sunflower the next day.

3. Teacher: Children, let us all pledge to save trees.

Children: Yes, mam, we all pledge to save our trees as the trees are the lungs of the city.

Teacher: Let us start today by planting a sapling.

The teacher asked all the children to pledge to save trees. The children replied affirmatively (a) ..... as the (b) ..... Then the teacher said that (c) .....

Answers:

- (f) saying that they all pledged to save trees
- (g) trees are the lungs of the city.
- (h) they should start by planting a sapling that day.

4. Buddha : Honesty is the best policy.

Disciple : Does honesty always pay?

Buddha : It may or may not, but at least you will never feel guilty.

Buddha in his preaching said that (a) ..... the best policy. A disciple asked him if (b) ..... always pays, Buddha replied (c) .....but at least he would never feel guilty.

Answers:

- (a) Honesty is
- (b) honesty
- (c) that it might or might not

