

Reported speech

Reported speech (or indirect speech) is used to relay what someone else has said without quoting them directly. It typically involves changes to the original speaker's words, especially in terms of pronouns, verb tenses, and sometimes other parts of speech. Here's a detailed explanation:

Basic Structure

1. **Direct Speech:** Quoting the exact words of the speaker.

She said, "I am going to the market."

2. **Reported Speech:** Conveying what the speaker said without quoting directly.

She said that she was going to the market.

Changes in Reported Speech

1. **Pronouns:** They often change to match the perspective of the reporter.

Direct: He said, "I will help you."

Reported: He said that he would help me.

2. **Verb Tenses:** Often shift back one tense.

REPORTED SPEECH			
'I <u>know</u> quite a lot of people <u>here</u> .' Robert said.	Present Simple	Simple Past	He said that <u>he knew</u> quite a lot of people <u>there</u>
'John <u>is feeling</u> much better.' Paul said.	Present Continuous	Past Continuous	He said that John <u>was feeling</u> much better
'I <u>enjoyed</u> <u>my</u> holiday in the States' David said.	Simple Past	Past Perfect	He said that <u>he had enjoyed</u> <u>his</u> holiday in the States
'Jackie <u>wasn't feeling</u> very well', the teacher said.	Past Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	He said that Jackie <u>hadn't been feeling</u> very well
' <u>They've seen</u> the Eiffel Tower' John said.	Present Perfect	Past Perfect	He said that they <u>had seen</u> the Eiffel Tower
'I <u>have been waiting</u> for ages' my father said.	Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	He said that <u>he had been waiting</u> for ages
'Nobody <u>had warned</u> them about the storm' the politician said.	Past Perfect	Past Perfect	He said that nobody <u>had warned</u> them about the storm
'She <u>had been reading</u> all day' Brenda said.	Past Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	She said that she <u>had been reading</u> all day

3. Modal Verbs: Change according to the time frame

can	→	could
may	→	might
might	→	might
could	→	could
will / shall	→	would / should
would	→	would
should	→	should
ought to	→	ought to
must	→	must (regulations / prohibitions / probability)
	→	had to (present necessity or obligation)

Examples:

- **Can to Could:**

Direct: "I can swim."

Reported: He said that he could swim.

- **Will to Would:**

Direct: "I will come."

Reported: She said that she would come.

- **May to Might:**

Direct: "I may arrive late."

Reported: He said that he might arrive late.

Other Changes

1. **Time and Place References:** Adjust to fit the context of reporting.

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
today	that day
now	then / at the moment
yesterday	the day before
... days ago	... days before
last week	the week before
next year	the following year
tomorrow	the next day the following day
here	there
this	that
these	those
ago	previously / before
tonight	that night



Examples:

- **Today to That Day:**

Direct: "I will finish it today."

Reported: She said that she would finish it that day.

- **Tomorrow to The Next Day:**

Direct: "I will go tomorrow."

Reported: He said that he would go the next day.

- **Here to There:**

Direct: "I am staying here."

Reported: She said that she was staying there.

Reporting Questions

1. **Yes/No Questions:** Use "if" or "whether".

Direct: "Are you coming?"

Reported: She asked if I was coming.

2. **Wh- Questions:** Keep the question word and change the sentence structure.

Direct: "What are you doing?"

Reported: He asked what I was doing.

Reporting Commands and Requests

1. **Commands:** Use "told" with the infinitive form of the verb.

Direct: "Close the door."

Reported: He told me to close the door.

2. **Requests:** Use "asked" with the infinitive form of the verb.

Direct: "Please help me."

Reported: She asked me to help her.