

# REPORTED SPEECH

It is the exact meaning of what someone said but not the exact words.

- \* When we use Reported Speech, the main verb of the sentence is usually past.
- \* Inverted commas are omitted in Reported Speech.
- \* " That " is optional when you report an affirmative or negative sentence.
- \* When the reporting verb (said, told, asked, etc) is in the Past, all the following verbs usually change into a past form, too.
- \* However, the tenses do not change in Reported Speech when :
  - the reporting verb is in the Present, Future or Present Perfect tense.
  - the speaker expresses general truths, permanent states and conditions.
  - the speaker is reporting something immediately after it was said (up to date)
- \* The Past Simple can usually stay the same in Reported Speech, or you can change it to the Past Perfect.
- \* When the reported sentence contains a time clause, the tenses do not change.
- \* The Past Perfect and the Past Continuous usually remain the same in Reported Speech.
- \* If the reported sentence deals with unreal past, conditionals type 2 or 3 or wishes, the tenses remain the same.
- \* Personal Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives change according to the context.
- \* Time words can change or remain the same depending on the time reference.

## Direct Speech

## EXAMPLES

## Reported Speech

"I write ", she said. □ □ □ □	She said (that) she wrote .
"I am writing", she said. □ □	She said (that) she was writing .
"I have written", she said. □ □ □	She said (that) she had written.
"I wrote", she said. □ □ □ □	She said (that) she had written .
"I will write ", she said. □ □ □	She said (that) she would write .
"I have been writing ", she said. □ □	She said (that) she had been writing .
"I am going to write ", she said. □ □	She said (that) she was going to write .
"I can write ", she said. □ □ □	She said (that) she could write.
"I may write", she said. □ □ □	She said (that) she might write.
"I must write , she said. □ □ □	She said (that) she had to/must write.
"I should write ", she said. □ □ □	She said (that) she should write.
"I ought to write ", she said. □ □ □	She said (that) she ought to write.
"Do you write ? ", she said to him. □ □	She asked him if he wrote.
"Write ! ", she said to him. □ □ □	She told him to write.

# EXERCISES

Tom met his cousin, Jessica, when he was in Mar del Plata.  
Read Jessica's words. Then report what she said.

- \* Mar del Plata is a fantastic city .
- \* The weather is hot .
- \* I go swimming every day.
- \* The hotel is nice.
- \* I've made a lot of friends.
- \* The food is delicious.
- \* I'm coming back again next Summer.

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TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES INTO REPORTED SPEECH.

- \* "We have moved into our new flat", said my friend.
- \* "Japan is a densely populated city", the teacher said.
- \* "You have got my coat", I said crossly.
- \* "I know exactly what she did", the private detective explained to his client.
- \* He said : "My wife wants to take a job".
- \* "If you saw my brother, you'd recognize him at once", Mary said.
- \* "I don't know what your father will say when he sees your school report", she said.
- \* "I'll help you with those exercises", Tony said.

CHANGE THE FOLLOWING FROM DIRECT INTO REPORTED SPEECH

- \* "Why are you looking so sad ?", I asked him.
- \* "Do you like tennis ?", my neighbour asked me .
- \* "Who left these shoes here ?", their mother said.
- \* "What is the weather like in Paris ?", she asked.
- \* "Did you enjoy it ?", Sam asked his girlfriend.

Here are some of the things your teacher said to you:

"Pay attention !"

"Open you book !"

"Don't forget your copybook next class!"

"Don't say it in Spanish !"

"Write 10 negative sentences"

Tell your friend what your teacher said. Use reported speech.

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