



University Centre Abdelhafid Bousouf E- learning Centre



English –
MA.2

Lesson Three: Reported Speech

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Students Concerned- Semester 1

<i>Institute</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Specialty</i>
<i>Economic Science</i>	<i>Economic & Commercial Science</i>	<i>Master Two</i>	<i>• All specialties</i>

Objectives of the lesson:

- The goal of this lesson is to train students how to, properly, report a speech using the correct tense and grammar.

Reported speech

Reported speech:

Sometimes someone says a sentence, for example, "I'm going to work tomorrow". Later, maybe we want to tell someone else what the first person said.

We use a 'reporting verb' like “say” or “tell” The meaning is the same, but the grammar is different. For example:

- **In Direct speech:** John: "I'll be late".
- **Reported speech:** John said (that) he would be late. Or John told me (that) he was going to be late.

With “tell”, we NEED the object (e.g. 'me', 'you', and 'me').

With “say” we CANNOT use the object (e.g. 'me', 'them', 'us').

If the verb is in the **past tense**, we change the tenses in the reported speech:

- **Direct speech:** Karim: “I played a game”.
- **Reported speech:** Karim/he said (that) he played a game.

If this verb is in the **present tense**, we just put “she/he says” and then the sentence.

We do not need to change the tense, though probably we do need to change the person from 'I' to 'she' or 'he'. We also may need to change words like 'my' and 'your'

- **Direct speech:** Stephen: “I like basketball”.
- **Reported speech:** Stephen/He says (that) he likes basketball.

Use 'that' or not in English is optional. It is the same if you use 'that' or if you do not use 'that'.

In questions, once we tell the question to someone else, it is not a question any more. So we need to change the grammar to a normal positive sentence. We remove do/does, and we change the verb to **the past tense**:

- **Direct speech:** Lina: “Where do you live?”
- **Reported speech:** Lina/ She asked me where I lived.

When we have the verb **to be**, we change it to **the past tense**:

- **Direct speech:** Lina: “Where **is** Julie? “
- **Reported speech:** Lina/She asked me where Julie **was**.

In 'yes / no' question? We use **'if'**:

- **Direct speech:** Melissa: “Do you like flowers?”
- **Reported speech:** Melissa/She asked me if I liked flowers.

In general facts, we do not need to change the tense:

- **Direct speech:** Mira: “The sky is blue”.
- **Reported speech:** Mira/She said (that) the sky is/was blue.

When there is a request (polite), we do not need to report every word when we tell another person about it. We simply use '**ask me + to + infinitive**':

- **Direct speech:** Maria: “Close the window, please”
- **Reported speech:** Maria/ She asked me to close the window.

To report a negative request, use '**not**':

- **Direct speech:** Rami: “Please don't be loud”.
- **Reported speech:** Ram/he asked us not to be loud.







When someone tells you very directly to do something. An order (not polite), we use '**tell**' instead of '**ask**':

- **Direct speech:** Sit down!
- **Reported speech:** She told me to sit down.

In reported speech we have to change **time expressions**, for example: It's **Monday**.

- Julie says "I'm leaving **today**":
 - If I tell someone on **Monday**, I say "Julie said she was leaving **today**".
 - If I tell someone on **Tuesday**, I say "Julie said she was leaving **yesterday**".
 - If I tell someone on **Wednesday**, I say "Julie said she was leaving **on Monday**".
 - If I tell someone a **month later**, I say "Julie said she was leaving **that day**".

More time expressions:

- now  then / at that time
- today  yesterday / that day / Tuesday / the 27th of June
- yesterday  the day before yesterday / the day before / Wednesday / the 5th of December
- last night  the night before, Thursday night
- last week  the week before / the previous week
- tomorrow  today / the next day / the following day / Friday