

The Reported Speech

I. Reporting Statements

1) **Direct speech:** is the actual words that come from the speaker's mouth so straight to the listener (s)'s ears. Here, we use quotation marks to quote the speech.

2) **Indirect speech:** is when somebody tells what another one has said without repeating his own words.

The rule:

I) When the **reporting verb (to tell/ to say)** is in the present or future tenses, the tense of the main verb **doesn't change**. We change the **pronouns only** according to the **meaning** of the sentence.

Direct speech	Reported speech
I	he/ she
You	he/ she
We	they
Me/ us	his/ her
My/ your/ his/ her/ our	his/ her
Mine/ yours/ his/ hers/ ours	his/ hers/ theirs

Examples: 1) He says: "I like reading books". ___ He says that he likes reading books.

2) He has said: "we are going to the seaside". ___ He has said that they are going to the seaside.

II) When the **reporting verb** is in a **past tense**, the main verb **must be changed**.

Direct speech	Reported speech
The present simple	The past simple
The present continuous	The past continuous
The present perfect	The past perfect
The future simple(will+ stem)	The conditional (would+ stem)
The past simple	The past simple/ the past perfect
The past continuous	No change
The past perfect	No change

Modal verbs:

Must / have to	Had to.
Can	Could
Shall	Should
May	Might
Could/ should/ would/ might	No change.

Examples:

1. He said: "I am studying English". ___ He said that he was studying English.

2. He said: "she has been very stupid". ___ He said that she had been very stupid.

3. He told us: "I was late". ___ He told us that he had been late.

4. She told me: "I will be in time". ___ She told me that she would be in time.

	Direct speech	Reported speech
Place indicators	Here/There	There
Demonstratives	This These	That Those

Time indicators	Now Today/ Tonight Yesterday Tomorrow Last week/ month/ year Next day/ week/ month/ year A week/ month/ year ago	Then/ that moment That day/ that night The day before/ the previous day The following/ the next day The week before/ the previous day The following day/ the day after The month/ year before
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II. Reporting Questions

1. Wh Questions

Direct Questions:	Wh word+aux.+S+V+O+... ?
Indirect Questions:	... wh word +S+V+O+....

***In (wh) questions, (wh) word questions** (the interrogative word) is used to introduce the reported question.

Eg: **What's** your name? -- He asked me **what** my name was. / He asked her **what** her name was.

*In general reported questions **are not real questions**; they have the same **word order as ordinary statements**. It's not so different from reported statements. The tense changes are **the same**, and we keep the question word.

2. Yes/ No Questions

Direct Questions:	Aux. +S+V+O+... ?
Indirect Questions:	... if/ whether +S+V+O+....

Eg: "Do you hear me"/ "Are you OK?"

→The teacher asked him **if/ whether** he heard him/ The teacher asked him **if/ whether** she was OK.

*Inversion questions must be introduced by **if** or **whether**.

*Replies

Replies to reported questions introduced by: answered or replied.

III. Orders:

Reported orders are introduced by ordered/ told ... and turned into **infinitive**.

Eg. "Go to bed!"/ "don't make noise!" →She ordered me **to go** to bed. / He told me **not to make** noise.

IV. Requests, invitations:

Requests, invitations... are turned into **the infinitive**.

"Give me a pen, please!" → He asked me to give him a pen.

"Would you like to come for dinner?" → She invited me to go for dinner.

IV. Suggestions:

Eg. - Let's go out for dinner! → He suggested **going out** for dinner.

- **Why don't** we make a journey? → She suggested **making** a journey.

- **Shall** I take the baby to his bed? → She asked/ wondered **if she should take** the baby to his bed.

In suggestions, shall changes into should.

Suggestions without shall are introduced by asked/ wondered/ suggested + v + ing