



University Center
Abdelhafid Boussouf
E- Learning Center



English - level 1

-Lesson 4-

The reported speech

Rules

Pedagogical staff

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Students concerned –semester 2-

<i>Institute</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Specialty</i>
<i>Letters and Languages</i>	<i>Foreign Languages</i>	<i>Licentiate 1</i>	<i>French</i>

Reported speech

Direct speech is used to report or rather repeat the words spoken by the speaker or writer in the way it is told by the speaker.

Reported speech, according to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, is defined as "a report of what somebody has said that does not use their exact words."

1-when the reporting verb (to tell/ to say) is in the present or future tenses, the tense of the main verb does not change. We change the pronouns, the place and time expressions.

Example: He says: "I like reading books". Direct speech

He says (that) he likes reading books. Indirect speech.

2-when the reporting verb (to tell/to say) is in the past tense, the main verb must be changed.

Direct speech	Indirect (reported speech)
She said : I like ice cream" present simple	She said (that) she liked ice cream. Past simple
She said: I am living in London" present continuous.	She said (that) she was living in London. Past continuous
He said: I bought a car" past simple	He said (that) he had bought a car. Past perfect.
He said: I was walking along the street" past continuous	He said she had been walking along the street. Past perfect continuous
She said: "I have not seen Julie" present perfect	She said (that) she had not seen Julie. Past perfect.
She said: "I had taken English lessons before" past perfect.	She said that she had taken English lessons before. Past perfect
He said: "I will see you later" future simple	He said (that) he would see you later. Would + stem

Modals

Direct speech	Indirect speech
Can	could
would	would
Could	could
Shall	would
should	Should
Might	Might
Must	Had to

Time and place expressions

Direct speech	Indirect speech
Now	Then
Today	That day
Tonight	That night
Tomorrow	The next day/ the following day
Yesterday	The day before/ the previous day
Last / last night	The previous/ the previous night/ the night before
Next	The following
Ago	before

Here	There
This	That
These	Those

Reported questions

Yes/ no questions

In *yes/no* questions, we use *if* or *whether* to report the question.

Example: “Have you finished the project yet?” She asked us whether we had finished the project yet.

Wh questions

We use the question word to report the question

Example: “What time does the train leave?” He asked me what time the train left.

Reported requests

A request is when someone ask you to do something in a polite way.

Example: “close the window please”

Indirect speech: she asked me to close the window.

Negative request: please do not be late. She asked me not to be late.

Reported orders

An 'order' in English is when someone tells you very directly to do something.

we make reported orders in the same way as requests. We just use 'tell' instead of 'ask':

Example: sit down!

Indirect speech: she told me to sit down.