

Reported speech

Reported statement

Direct statements	Reported statements
'I like shopping.'	She said (that) she liked shopping.
'I am going tomorrow .'	He told her he was going the next day .
'I will always love you .'	He said he would always love me .
'I passed the exam.'	She told him she had passed the exam.
'I've forgotten my keys.'	He said he had forgotten his keys.
'I can't come.'	She said she couldn't come.
'I may be late.'	He said he might be late.
'I must go.'	She said she had to go.

- Tenses usually change like this: *present >past, will> would, past simple/present perfect > past perfect.*
- Some modal verbs change, e.g. *can> could; may > might; must > had to.* Other modal verbs stay the same, e.g. *could, might, should,* etc.
- Must changes to had to BUT **mustn't** stays the same.
 'you **mustn't** touch it.' she said I **mustn't** touch it.
- You usually have to change the pronouns. I like.... > she said she liked....
- Using that after said or told is optional.
- If you report what someone said on a different day or in a different place, some time and place words change, e.g. tomorrow> the next day, here>there, this > that.

- After said DO NOT use a person or a pronoun.
He said he was tired NOT ~~he said me he was tired.~~
- After told you MUST use a person or a pronoun.
He told me he was tired NOT ~~he told he was tired.~~

Reported questions

Direct questions	Reported questions
'Are you married?'	She asked him if he was married.
'Did she phone?'	He asked me whether she had phoned.
'What's your name?'	I asked him what his name was.
Where do you live?'	The asked me where I lived.

- when you report a question, the tenses change as in reported sentences.
- When a question begins with a verb (not a question word), add *if* or *whether*.
- You also have to change the word order to subject + verb.

Commands

Direct speech	Reported speech
'Go away.'	She told him to go away
'Don't worry.'	The doctor told me not to worry.
'Can / Could you help?'	I asked the shop assistant to help me.

- To report an imperative or request, use *told* or *asked* + person + the infinitive with to.
- To report a negative imperative, use a negative infinitive (e.g. **not to do**)
- You can't use said in these sentences.

NOT ~~*she said him to go away.*~~

Complete the sentences using reported speech.

1. 'Do you want to go?'
He asked meI wanted to go.
2. 'Are you listening?'
The teacher asked us we were listening.
3. 'I must be back at 7.30 p.m.'
She said she be back at 7.30 p.m.
4. 'I've left my homework at home.'
He said he his homework at home.
5. 'I'll give you a lift.'
He said he give me a lift.

6. 'We may not have it in stock.'
The shop assistant said they have it in stock.
7. 'Don't walk on the grass!'
The man told us walk on the grass.
8. 'What are your names?'
They asked us what our names

Choose the correct answer:

1. We asked the sales assistant how much
A- was it **B-** is it **C-** it was **D-** it is
2. Sally asked the police man if help her.
A- can he **B-** could he **C-** he can **D-** he could
3. My parents asked me when
A- am I leaving **B-** was I leaving **C-** I was leaving **D-** I am leaving
4. "I'm selling all my books." My brother said he was selling all
books.
A- my **B-** he **C-** his **D-** none
5. I asked Lucy her clothes.
A- where she bought **B-** did she bought
C- where did she buy **D-** she buys
6. Jane said that she come shopping with us.
A- will **B-** is **C-** was **D-** would
7. He told me that he anything.
A- doesn't buy **B-** haven't bought
C- hadn't bought **D-** he buys