

Direct / Reported speech

Use

- **Direct speech** is the exact words someone said. The sentence is put within quotation marks ('...')
- ❖ Ann: 'It's very cold outside.'
- **Reported speech** is the exact meaning of what someone said, but not his / her exact words. The sentence is not put within quotation marks. There is an introductory verb (say, tell), after which we can put the word **that** or we can omit it.
- ❖ Ann said (that) it was very cold outside.

Say - Tell

'Say' and 'tell' are used both in **direct** and in **reported speech**.

➤ **Tell** must be followed by an indirect object.

➤ **Say** is not followed by an indirect object but can be followed by **to + personal pronoun or noun**.

❖ She **said**, 'I'm tired'.

❖ She **said (that)** she was tired.

❖ She **said to me**, 'I'm tired'.

❖ She **said to me (that)** she was tired.

❖ She **told me**, 'I'm tired'.

❖ She **told me (that)** she was tired.

Reported statements

In reported speech:

- Personal / possessive pronouns, and possessive adjectives change according to the meaning of the sentence.
- ❖ Jerry said, 'I don't want to go out with **my** parents'.
- ❖ Jerry said (that) **he** didn't want to go out with **his** parents.
- When the **introductory verb** is in a **past tense**, the tenses in the reported sentence and the modals verbs (if they have a past form) change as follows:
 - Modals
 - can → could
 - may → might
 - shall → should

| Direct Speech | | Reported Speech |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Simple Present | → | Simple Past |
| 'My dance class starts at 7:00.' | | She said (that) her dance class started at 7:00. |
| Present Continuous | → | Past Continuous |
| 'I'm moving house very soon.' | | He said (that) he was moving house very soon. |
| Present Perfect | → | Past Perfect |
| 'We have finished our homework.' | | They said (that) they had finished their homework. |
| Simple Past | → | Simple Past / Past Perfect |
| 'Dad came home early today.' | | He said (that) Dad had come home early that day. |
| Past Continuous | → | Past Continuous / Past Perfect Continuous |
| 'I was sleeping' | | She said (that) she had been sleeping. |
| Simple future | → | Would |
| 'We will have a party soon.' | | They said (that) they would have a party soon. |

- Certain words and time expressions change according to the meaning of the sentence as follows:

| Direct Speech | → | Reported Speech |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| now | → | then |
| today | → | that day |
| yesterday | → | the day before, the previous day |
| tonight | → | that night |
| tomorrow | → | the next / following day |
| this these | → | that those |
| last week / month / year | → | the previous week / month / year, the week / month /year before |
| next week / month / year | → | the following week / month / year, the week / month /year after |
| ago | → | before |
| here | → | there |
| come | → | go |

Note!!

- The verb tenses do not change when the introductory verb is in the **present, future** or **present perfect**.
- ❖ Jim says, 'I **am** very tired'.
- ❖ Jim says (that) **he is** very tired'.
- The verb tenses may not change when we report a general truth.
- ❖ Georgia said, 'It **rains** a lot in March'.
- ❖ Georgia said that it **rains** a lot in March.
- **Could, might, should, ought to, had better, would, used to** remain unchanged.
- ❖ 'I **could** do it'.
- ❖ He said he **could** do it
- **Must** can remain unchanged or be replaced by **had to**.
- ❖ 'I **must** leave'.
- ❖ She said she **must** leave / **had to** leave.

Reported Orders / Requests

- When we report orders, we use the introductory verbs: **'tell', 'order' + someone + (not) to -infinitive.**
- ❖ 'Get into groups and don't make a lot of noise', the teacher told us.
- ❖ The teacher told us **to get** into groups and **not to make** a lot of noise.
- When we report requests, we use the introductory verb **'ask' + (not)to -infinitive** and we omit words such as 'please'.
- ❖ 'Help me carry this desk, please', the teacher told me.
- ❖ The teacher asked me **to help** her carry that desk.

Reported questions

- Reported questions are usually introduced with the verbs / expressions: ask, wonder, inquire, want to know.
- ❖ 'What time does the play start?'
- ❖ **He wanted to know** what time the play started.
- When the direct question begins with a question word (who, where, why, when, how, etc.), the reported question is introduced with the same word.
- ❖ '**What** do you like?'
- ❖ He wondered **what** I liked.
- When the direct question begins with an auxiliary or modal verb (be, do, can, etc.), the reported question starts with 'if' or 'whether'.
- ❖ '**Do** you like helping others?'
- ❖ He asked me **if / whether** I liked helping others.
- The word order is the same as in an affirmative sentence. The verb tenses, pronouns and time expressions change as in statements. The question mark is omitted.
- ❖ 'What time **does the play start?**'
- ❖ He wanted to know what time **the play started**.