

Reported Speech (1) (He said that . . .)

A

Study this example situation:

I'm feeling sick.



TOM

You want to tell somebody else what Tom said. There are two ways of doing this:

You can repeat Tom's words (*direct speech*):
Tom said, "I'm feeling sick."

Or you can use *reported speech*:
Tom said that he was feeling sick.

Compare:

direct: Tom said, " I am feeling sick."

reported: Tom said that he was feeling sick.

In writing we use quotation marks to show direct speech.

B

When we use reported speech, the main verb of the sentence is usually past (Tom said that . . . / I told her that . . . , etc.). The rest of the sentence is usually past, too:

- Tom said that he was feeling sick.
- I told her that I didn't have any money.

You can leave out *that*:

- Tom said (that) he was feeling sick.

In general, the *present* form in direct speech changes to the *past* form in reported speech:

am/is → was	have/has → had	will → would	can → could
are → were	do/does → did	want/know/go, etc. → wanted/knew/went, etc.	

Compare direct speech and reported speech:

You met Jenny. Here are some of the things she said to you in direct speech.

"My parents are fine."

"I'm going to learn to drive."

"John has quit his job."

"I can't come to the party on Friday."

"I want to go away for the weekend, but I don't know where to go."

"I'm going away for a few days. I'll call you when I get back."



JENNY

Later you tell somebody what Jenny said. You use reported speech:

- Jenny said that her parents were fine.
- She said that she was going to learn to drive.
- She said that John had quit his job.
- She said that she couldn't come to the party on Friday.
- She said that she wanted to go away for the weekend, but (she) didn't know where to go.
- She said that she was going away for a few days and would call me when she got back.

C

The *simple past* (did/saw/knew, etc.) can usually stay the same in reported speech, or you can change it to the *past perfect* (had done / had seen / had known, etc.):

■ *direct:* Tom said, "I woke up feeling sick, so I stayed in bed."

reported: Tom said (that) he woke up feeling sick, so he stayed in bed. *or*
Tom said (that) he had woken up feeling sick, so he stayed in bed.

Exercises

44.1 Yesterday you met a friend of yours, Robert. Here are some of the things Robert said to you:

1. I'm living in my own apartment now.
2. My father isn't very well.
3. Amanda and Paul are getting married next month.
4. Michelle has had a baby.
5. I don't know what Eric is doing.
6. I saw Nicole at a party in June, and she seemed fine.
7. I haven't seen Diane recently.
8. I'm not enjoying my job very much.
9. You can come and stay at my place if you are ever in Chicago.
10. My car was stolen a few weeks ago.
11. I want to take a vacation, but I can't afford it.
12. I'll tell Amy I saw you.



ROBERT

Later that day you tell another friend what Robert said. Use reported speech.

1. *Robert said that he was living in his own apartment now.* _____
2. He said that _____
3. He _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

44.2 Somebody says something to you that is the opposite of what they said before. Write an appropriate answer beginning with *I thought you said . . .*

1. A: That restaurant is expensive.
B: It is? *I thought you said it was cheap.* _____
2. A: Ann is coming to the party tonight.
B: She is? I thought you said she _____
3. A: Ann likes Paul.
B: She does? I thought you said _____
4. A: I know lots of people.
B: You do? I thought you said you _____
5. A: Pat will be here next week.
B: She will? _____
6. A: I'm going out this evening.
B: You are? _____
7. A: I can speak a little French.
B: You can? _____
8. A: I haven't been to the movies in a long time.
B: You haven't? _____