REPORTED SPEECH

REPORTED STATEMENTS, QUESTIONS AND COMMANDS

If we report what another person has said, we usually do not use the speaker's exact words (direct speech), but reported (indirect) speech.

Therefore, you need to learn how to transform direct speech into reported speech.

The structure is a little different depending on whether you want to transform a statement, question or request.

REPORTED STATEMENTS

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When transforming statements, check whether you have to change:

◦ pronouns

◦ present tense verbs (3rd person singular)

◦ place and time expressions

◦ tenses (backshift)

TENSE BACKSHIFT

Do not change the tense if the introductory verb is in Present Simple Tense (e.g. he says). However, you might have to change the verb form:

He says: „I speak English."   He says he speaks English.

You must change the tense if the introductory verb is in Past Simple Tense (e.g. he said). This is called a backshift.

He said: „I am happy."   He said that he was happy.

The verbs could, should, would, must, might, needn't, ought to, used to don't normally change.

TENSE BACKSHIFT

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Present Simple	Past Simple
Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Present Perfect Past Simple Past Perfect	Past Perfect
Present Perfect Continuous Past Continuous Past Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
Future Simple (will)	Conditional Type I (would)
Future tense (going to)	was / were going to

PLACE AND TIME EXPRESSIONS

For place and time expressions you have to check whether place and time are the same in direct and reported speech or not. Check out the following example:

◦ It is Friday and you meet James at a restaurant. James tells you that he saw Caroline in this restaurant today. ("I saw Caroline here today.") A few minutes later, Helen joins you and you want to report what James has told you. Place *(here)* and time *(today)* are the same and you can say: → James said that he had seen Caroline here today.

◦ One day later, you meet Mary at the same restaurant. Again, you want to report to her what James has told you. The place is the same, but not the time (it happened yesterday). So you would say: → James said that he had seen Caroline here yesterday.

◦ Still a few days later, Tom rings you at home. Again, you want to report to him what James has told you. However, now you are not at the restaurant (but at home) and a few days have passed since then. So you would say: → James said that he had seen Caroline at the restaurant on Friday.

◦ Therefore you always have to think which place and time expressions are logical in a certain situation.

EXERCISES

- https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/reported-speech/exercises?03

- https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/reported-speech/exercises?04

- http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/reported_speech/backshift.htm

- http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/reported-speech-exercises.html

REPORTED QUESTIONS

REPORTED QUESTIONS

When transforming questions, check whether you have to change:

◦ pronouns

◦ present tense verbs (3rd person singular)

◦ place and time expressions

◦ tenses (backshift)

Also note that you have to:

◦ transform the question into an indirect question

◦ use the interrogative or *if / whether*

It is also important that you use an <u>indirect question</u> in reported speech - i.e. after the interrogative or ,whether' / ,if', you continue the sentence as if it were a <u>statement</u> (subject-verb etc.).

The auxiliary verb ,*do*' is not used in indirect questions.

	DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Reported statement	He said: „She lives in London."	He said that she lived in London.
Reported question (with interrogative)	He asked: „Where does she live?"	He asked where she lived.
Reported question (without interrogative)	He asked: „Does she live in London?"	He asked if she lived in London.

EXERCISES

- https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/reported-speech/exercises?05

- https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/reported-speech/exercises?06

- http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/reported-speech-exercise-2.html

- http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/reported-speech-exercise-6.html

- http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/reported-speech-exercise-7.html

REPORTED COMMANDS

REPORTED COMMANDS

When transforming questions, check whether you have to change:

◦ pronouns

◦ place and time expressions

Tenses are not relevant for requests – simply use ‚*to*' + infinite verb. For negative requests, use ‚*not to*' + infinite verb.

　　◦ She said, "Say hello to your mum." – She asked me to say hello to my mum.

　　◦ He said, "Don't give up, Bob." – He advised Bob not to give up.

REPORTING VERBS

- Ask
- Invite
- Persuade
- Explain
- Promise
- Remind
- Offer
- Announce

- Encourage
- Advise
- Order
- Tell
- Refuse
- Beg
- Suggest
- Complain

EXERCISES

- https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/reported-speech/exercises?07

- https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/reported-speech/exercises?08

- https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/reported-speech/exercises?09

- http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/reported-speech-exercise-3.html