



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



- When transforming statements, check whether you have to change:
- pronouns
- present tense verbs (3rd person singular)
- place and time expressions
- tenses (backshift)

Reported Speech

What is it? How do you use it?

Yesterday, I saw my friend Pamela!
She told me that she got a promotion!





...today

...yesterday

- **Example**
- **direct speech**
- **“I speak English.”**

- **English.reported speech**

- **He said that he spoke English.**

Backshift of tenses

Simple Present

Simple Past

Simple Past

Present Perfect

Past Perfect

Past Perfect

Will

would

Progressive forms

am/are/is

was/were

was/were

has been

had been

had been

Direct Speech

Simple Present

"She wants an ice-cream."

Present Continuous

"She is singing."

Present Perfect

"He has seen the film."

Past Simple

"He bought a new CD."

Past Continuous

"I was feeding the cat."

Future (Will)

"I will give her the book tomorrow."

Can

"I can dance very well."

May

"She may go to school."

Must

"You must do your homework."

Reported Speech

Simple Past

She said she wanted an ice-cream.

Past Continuous

She said she was singing.

Past Perfect

She said he had seen the film.

Past Perfect

She said he had bought a new CD the day before.

Past Perfect Continuous

He said he had been feeding the cat.

Conditional (Would)

He said he would give her the book the next day.

Could

She said she could dance very well.

Might

He said he might go to school.

Had to

She said he had to do his homework

Time Expressions

today

that day

tonight

that night

now

then

yesterday

the day before/previous day

... days ago

... days before

last week

the week before/previous week

next year

the following year

tomorrow

the next day / the following day

Place

here

there

Demonstratives

this

that

these

those



- Rewrite the sentences in reported speech. Change pronouns and time expressions where necessary.
- She said, "I am reading."
→ She said that _____
- They said, "We are busy."
→ They said that _____
- He said, "I know a better restaurant."
→ He said that _____
- She said, "I woke up early."
→ She said that _____
- He said, "I will ring her."
→ He said that _____

- They said, "We have just arrived."
→ They said that _____
- He said, "I will clean the car."
→ He said that _____
- She said, "I did not say that."
→ She said that _____
- She said, "I don't know where my shoes are."
→ She said that _____
- He said: "I won't tell anyone."
→ He said that _____

- REPORTING QUESTIONS

- "Where is my umbrella?" she asked.

→ She asked _____

- "How are you?" Martin asked us.

→ Martin asked us _____

- He asked, "Do I have to do it?"

→ He asked _____

- "Where have you been?" the mother asked her daughter.

→ The mother asked her daughter _____

- "Which dress do you like best?" she asked her boyfriend.

→ She asked her boyfriend _____

- "What are they doing?" she asked.
→ She wanted to know _____
- "Are you going to the cinema?" he asked me.
→ He wanted to know _____
- The teacher asked, "Who speaks English?"
→ The teacher wanted to know _____
- "How do you know that?" she asked me.
→ She asked me _____
- "Has Caron talked to Kevin?" my friend asked me.
→ My friend asked me _____

- When transforming questions, also note that you have to:
- transform the question into an indirect question
- use the interrogative or *if / whether*

- **Interrogative direct speech**
- “Why don’t you speak English?”
- **reported speech**
- He asked me why I didn’t speak English
- Direct:
- “Do you speak English?”
- **reported speech:**
- He asked me whether / if I spoke English.
- [Online quiz](#)