



REPORTED SPEECH



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Expemo code:
14F7-V31B-UUUM

1 Presentation

There are two ways of telling somebody what another person said – **direct speech** and **reported speech**.

| Direct speech | Reported speech |
|---|---|
| <p>Direct speech repeats the exact words that somebody said:</p> <p>Peter said, "I'm at home." The politician said, "I will create many new jobs." Alison said, "I went out on Saturday." Omar said, "I've never been to China." Daniel said, "I can't speak French." Pavel said, "I want to go to the concert."</p> | <p>Reported speech reports what somebody said without repeating the exact words:</p> <p>Peter said that he was at home. The politician said that he would create many new jobs. Alison said that she went out on Saturday. Alison said that she had gone out on Saturday. Omar said that he had never been to China. Daniel said that he couldn't speak French. Pavel said that he wanted to go to the concert.</p> |



Rules for forming reported speech

1) The tense of the verb in **direct speech** changes in **reported speech**.

am/is -> **was** are -> **were** present simple -> **past simple** will -> **would** can -> **could**

2) The past simple in **direct speech** (*went*) can stay the same in reported speech, or we can use the **past perfect** (*had gone*).

3) We can leave out the word *that*.

Peter said **that** he was at home. Peter said he was at home.

4) If the situation has not changed, it is not necessary to change the tense.

Peter said that he **was** at home. (*Maybe he is still at home now. Maybe he isn't.*)

Peter said he **is** at home. (*He is still at home now.*)

But if the situation has changed, we usually change the tense. We may also need to change the time expression:

John said, "I'm feeling bad **today**." John said he **was** feeling bad **that day**.

Paulina said, "I'm coming **tomorrow**." Paulina said she **was** coming **the next day**.

2 Practice

Daniella meets Martin for the second time. She finds out that he isn't being completely honest. Look at what he told her the week before and complete their conversation below. Change the tense.

"I can speak French fluently."

"I don't drink alcohol."

"I have a Mercedes."

"I live alone."

"I'm going to Miami this summer."

"I've travelled all over the world."

"I won't forget your name."

"I have my own business."

Martin: My boss gave me a promotion today!

Daniella: But I thought you said you had your own business. (1)

Martin: I've never been to China.

Daniella: But I thought you told me (2)

Martin: I take the train to work every day.

Daniella: But didn't you say ? (3)

Martin: Let's go for a beer tomorrow evening.

Daniella: But you said (4)

Martin: I was at a French restaurant. The food was great, but the waiters refused to speak English!

Daniella: But I thought you said (5)

Martin: Sorry, I have to answer the phone. It's my flatmate.

Daniella: But you told me (6)

Martin: I'm going to stay at home this summer, so we can meet all the time.

Daniella: But didn't you say ? (7)

Martin: It was nice to see you again, Maria.

Daniella: It's Daniella. I thought you said (8)



Now complete the reported statements below. Change the tense from direct speech **ONLY** where necessary.

1. Joe said, "I'm going away this week."
Joe said he that week.
2. The athlete said, "I will win the race tomorrow."
The athlete said he tomorrow.
3. The news reporter said, "People have been protesting in the streets today."
The news reporter said people that day.
4. The director said, "The company will continue to grow next year."
The director said the company next year.
5. Last year, the doctor said, "You need to rest more."
Last year, the doctor told me I
6. The president said, "I won't lose the election."
The president said he, but he did.