

DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECH

Lencho said to you (Direct Speech)	You tell somebody what he said (Reported Speech)
1. "My parents are very well."	1. Lencho said that his parents are very well.
2. "Lelisa had given up writing module."	2. He said that Lelisa had given up writing the module.
3. "I am going to learn to swim."	3. He said that he was going to learn to swim.
4. "I want to go away for a vacation but I don't know where to go."	4. He said that he wanted to go away for vacation but (he) didn't know where to go.

TENSES IN REPORTED SPEECH

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
1. Simple Present: "I am an investor."	1. Simple Past: He said he was an investor.
2. Present Continuous: "I'm having lunch with Hunde."	2. Past Continuous: He said he was having lunch with Hunde.
3. Present Perfect: "I have been to Israel three times."	3. Past Perfect: He said he had been to Israel three times.
4. Present Perfect Continuous: "I have been studying English."	4. Past Perfect Continuous: He said he had been studying English.
5. Simple Past: "I bought a new shirt."	5. Past Perfect: He said he had bought a new shirt.
6. Past Continuous: "It was raining earlier."	5. Past Perfect Continuous: He said it had been raining earlier.
6. Past Perfect: "The game had started when I arrived."	6. Past Perfect: He said the game had started when he arrived. (No change)
7. Past Perfect Continuous "I had already been living in Israel for three weeks."	7. Past Perfect Continuous: He said that he had already been living in Israel for three weeks. (No change)

Auxiliary	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
will	She said, "I will teach English online tomorrow."	She said she would teach English online tomorrow.
can	She said, "I can teach English online."	She said she could teach English online.
must	She said, "I must have computer to teach English online."	She said she had to have a computer to teach English online.
shall	She said, "What shall we learn today?"	She asked what we should learn that day.
may	She said, "May I open a new folder?"	She asked if she might open a new folder.

VERBS AND MODAL AUXILIARIES THAT DO NOT CHANGE IN REPORTED SPEECH

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
1. Monera says, "Walabuma is at home."	1. Monera says Walabuma is at home.
2. Waqo says, "He hasn't finished his work yet."	2. Waqo says that he hasn't finished his work yet.
3. She says, "My name is Kiya."	3. She said her name is Kiya
4. Hawinet said, "Tokuma should finish editing the Module soon."	4. Hawinet said Tokuma should finish editing the Module soon.
5. Kena said, "He must be tired."	5. Kena said that he must be tired.
6. Martiket remarked, "He ought to have started sooner."	6. Martiket remarked that he ought to have started sooner.

The modal auxiliaries such as **could**, **might**, **ought to**, **should** and **would** are not changed in reported speech. **Must** also does not change when it expresses probability

Pronoun and Adverb Changes in Reported Speech

He said, "**I** will come **tomorrow**."

He said that **he** would come **the following day**.

Lensa said, "**I** am staying **here** till **this** evening."

Lensa said that **she** was staying **there** till **that** evening.

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Now	Then
Today	That day
This week	That week
Tomorrow	The following day/the next day/ the day after
Next week/month /year	The following week /month /year The week / month /year / after
Yesterday	The previous day/The day before
Last week /month /year ago	The previous week / month /year The week /month/ year/ before/ previously
Tonight	That night
Last Saturday	The previous Saturday
Next Saturday	The following Saturday/ That Saturday

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
1. He said, "I went to Finfine last week."	1. He said that he had gone to Finfine the week before.
2. Yerosan said, "I came from Bishoftu five years ago."	2. Yerosan said that he had come from Bishoftu five years before.
3. Ifabas a said, "I need the books now."	3. Ifabas said that she needed the books then.
4. Sinan said, "The modules are here."	4. Sinan said that the modules were there.

PRONOUN CHANGES

1. (a). Letu said, "I have to do the self-check exercises by **myself**."
- (b). Letu said that **she** had to do the self- check exercise by **herself**.

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
I	He/she
You	He/she /they
He/she /it	He /she /it
We	They
Us	Them
Our	Their
His /her /its	His/hers /its

1. **Direct:** They said, “We are late.”
Reported: They said they were late.
2. **Direct:** Milkesa said, “He gave us presents.”
Reported: Milkesa said that he had given them presents.

The changes in demonstrative pronouns

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
This	That
That	That
These	Those
Here	There
There	There
Those	Those

Examples:

1. **Direct:** Tiya said, “This is important.”
Reported: Tiya said that was important.
2. **Direct:** Bilisuma said, “These notes are very important for my research.”
Reported: Bilisuma said that those notes were very important for her research.

REPORTING VERBS

Said, told and **asked** are not the only reporting verbs. There are many other verbs that we can use apart from them. These include: accused, admitted, advised, agreed, apologized, complained, denied, explained, implied, invited, ordered, promised, replied, suggested, alleged, begged, boasted and thought.

1. She asked me to join the ruling party.
2. She ordered me to join the ruling party.
3. She advised me to join the ruling party.

If the reporting verb is simple present, perfect or future (i.e. says, has said and will say) the reported speech will be retained. Read the examples given below for better understanding of this exception of reported speech.

Examples:

1. **Direct:** She says, "I wash my hair every day."
Reported: She says that she washes her hair every day.
2. **Direct:** She has said, "I go to church every Sunday."
Reported: She has said that she goes to church every Sunday.
3. **Direct:** She will say, "I go to church every Sunday."
Reported: She will say that she goes to church every Sunday.

If the reporting sentence is expressing general truth or fact, the reported sentence is retained. This can be best seen in:

Direct: The teacher said, "The sun rises in the east."

Reported: The teacher said that the sun rises in the east.

Moreover, if the speaker reports something immediately or soon after, it was said in the direct speech, the reported clause often remains as spoken.

For example:

Direct: He said, "The next stop is the main gate."

Reported: He said that the next stop is the main gate.

The other exception here is, if **will** express future time, and if the situation described in the quote still holds true at the time of the reported speech, **will** may not be changed to **would** though the reporting verb is in the past.

For example:

Direct: Geologists said, "Volcanic eruption will occur next year."

Reported: Geologists said that volcanic eruption will occur next year.

THE USE OF 'THAT' IN REPORTED SPEECH

In reported speech the word **that** is often used. For example: He told me **that** he lived in Bensa. However, sometimes **that** could be optional in use as: He told me he lived in Bensa. Moreover, **that** is never used in questions, instead we use if/whether. For example: He asked me if she could come to the party.

REPORTING STATEMENTS

After checking all possible changes, you should use: **Subject + Reporting Verb (RV) + (that) + subject + tense change + the rest part of the sentence** as a pattern of reported statement.

For example:

Direct: Jalie said, "I will never forget you."

Reported: Jalie said (to me) that she would never forget me.

Here note that the most common reporting verbs for statements are: **tell** (tell + object pronoun) which is necessary and **say** (to + object pronoun) which is optional. Other reporting verbs in statements **include add, admit, agree, decide**, etc

REPORTING QUESTIONS

When you report questions, check whether you change the possible changes and identify the type of question whether it is **Yes/No** or **'Wh'** question. This is because the type of question matters in transforming questions to reported speech.

1. **YES/ NO QUESTIONS** -to report Yes/No questions, you usually use: **Subject + reporting verb (normally ask) + if /whether clause + subject + tense change + rest of the sentence.**

Example:

Direct: "Is your friend an Ethiopian?" she asked.

Reported: She asked him if /whether his friend was an Ethiopian.



Reported questions use normal word order and do not have question marks.

2. **'WH'--QUESTIONS** --are introduced by questioning words such what, when, where, why, who, etc. To report these questions, we use: **Subject + reporting verb (RV) + questions word +subject + tense change + rest of the sentence.**

Direct: I asked her, "Where does she live?"

Reported: I asked her where she lived.

Direct: "Where is the registrar?" asked the student.

Reported: The student wanted to know where the registrar was.



The most common reporting verbs in questions are: ask, wonder, want to know, enquire, etc.

REPORTING COMMANDS, REQUESTS, ADVICES, ORDERS, ETC.

Study the following examples:

I). Direct: “Be quiet!”

Reported: The teacher told them to be quite.

Direct: She said, “Please turn off the light when you sleep.”

Reported: She asked me to turn off the light when I slept.

To report commands, requests, advices, etc, which have been made to someone, we can use: **Subject + verb + object pronoun + infinitive with to + rest of the sentence.**

Look at the following sentences.

II). Direct: The sign says, “Do not smoke!”

Reported: The sign tell us not to smoke.

Direct: “Do not get in.”

Note that the sentences in (I) are positive. But when the direct speech sentences are negative, we use: **Subject + reporting verb + object pronoun + Not + infinitive with to + rest of the sentence.**



The most commonly used reporting verbs here are **tell, ask, advise, command, order, remind, warn**, etc.

Well done! Then, apply those patterns of reporting sentences in writing and speaking discourses while you are reporting what has been said by someone else.