

REPORTED SPEECH

Definition: Reported speech, also known as indirect speech, is used to report or convey what someone else has said without quoting their exact words. It is commonly used in written and spoken communication to report conversations, statements, or information from one person to another.

Key Concepts:

1. Direct Speech vs. Reported Speech:

- **Direct Speech:** In direct speech, the exact words of the speaker are enclosed in quotation marks. For example: He said, "I am going to the store."
- **Reported Speech:** In reported speech, we convey what the speaker said without quoting their exact words. For example: He said that he was going to the store.

2. Changes in Pronouns:

- In reported speech, pronouns often change. Here are some common changes:
 - I → He/She
 - You → He/She
 - We → They
 - My → His/Her
 - Our → Their
 - Me → Him/Her
 - Us → Them

3. Changes in Adverbs of time and place:

Now → Then

Direct: "I am busy now," she said.

Reported: She said that she was busy then.

Today → That day

Direct: "I saw her today," he mentioned.

Reported: He mentioned that he had seen her that day.

Tomorrow → The next day

Direct: "I will call you tomorrow," he promised.

Reported: He promised that he would call me the next day.

Yesterday → The day before

Direct: "I met him yesterday," she explained.

Reported: She explained that she had met him the day before.

Nowadays → In those days

Direct: "People use smartphones nowadays," they observed.

Reported: They observed that people used smartphones in those days.

Tonight → That night

Direct: "We're going to the party tonight," they said.

Reported: They said that they were going to the party that night.

Soon → Shortly after/soon after

Direct: "I'll be there soon," he assured.

Reported: He assured that he would be there shortly after.

Currently → At that time

Direct: "I'm currently working on a project," she noted.

Reported: She noted that she was working on a project at that time.

Here → There

Direct: "I'll meet you here," he said.

Reported: He said that he would meet me there.

Examples:

Direct Speech: "I am going to the park," she said.

Reported Speech: She said that she was going to the park.

Direct Speech: "You should read this book," he advised.

Reported Speech: He advised me to read that book.

Direct Speech: "We have finished our homework," they announced.

Reported Speech: They announced that they had finished their homework.

Direct Speech: "They are coming to the party," he mentioned.

Reported Speech: He mentioned that they were coming to the party.

Direct Speech: "Can you help me with this?" she asked.

Reported Speech: She asked if I could help her with that.

4. Changes in Verb Tenses:

- Verb tenses often change when moving from direct to reported speech:
 - **Present Simple → Past Simple**
 - **Present Continuous → Past Continuous**
 - **Present Perfect → Past Perfect**
 - **Past Simple → Past Perfect**
- The change in tense depends on the context and whether the reporting verb is in the present or past.

Direct Speech: She said, "I love this book."

Reported Speech: She said that she loved that book.

Direct Speech: They asked, "Are you coming to the party?"

Reported Speech: They asked if I was coming to the party.

Direct Speech: He said, "I have finished my homework."

Reported Speech: He said that he had finished his homework.

Direct Speech: "I am watching TV," she said.

Reported Speech: She said that she was watching TV.

5. Reporting Verbs:

- Different reporting verbs can be used to convey the speaker's attitude or the level of certainty about what was said. Examples include:
 - **Say, tell, ask, explain, suggest, claim, admit, promise, etc.**
 - Each of these verbs may be followed by different patterns in reported speech.

Examples:

1. **Direct Speech:** She said, "I love this book."

Reported Speech: She said that she loved that book.

2. **Direct Speech:** They asked, "Are you coming to the party?"

Reported Speech: They asked if I was coming to the party.

3. **Direct Speech:** He said, "I have finished my homework."

Reported Speech: He said that he had finished his homework.

Reporting Questions:

- **When reporting questions, we often use "if" or "whether" and change the word order.**
 - **Direct:** She asked, "Are you going to the movies?"
 - **Reported:** She asked if/whether I was going to the movies.
- **Sometimes we use 'wh' word with 'information questions'.**
 - **Direct:** They said to me, "Where are you going?"
 - **Reported:** They asked me where I was going.

Reporting Commands:

- **When reporting commands, we use the infinitive form of the verb (without "to").**
 - **Direct:** He said, "Close the door."
 - **Reported:** He told me to close the door.
 - **Direct:** The boy said to the teacher: Please explain this again.
 - **Reported:** The boy requested the teacher to explain that again.

Reporting Exclamatory Sentences:

- **Exclamatory sentences express strong emotions, surprise, or excitement. When reporting them, it's important to convey the emotional tone.**

Examples for Reporting Exclamatory Sentences:

1. **Direct:** She exclaimed, "What a beautiful sunset!" **Reported:** She exclaimed with wonder that it was such a beautiful sunset.
2. **Direct:** "I can't believe we won!" he shouted. **Reported:** He shouted with excitement that they couldn't believe they had won.
3. **Direct:** "What an amazing concert!" they gasped. **Reported:** They gasped in amazement that it was such an amazing concert.

Practice Exercises:

Declarative sentences

- "I have a dog," she said.
- "They are going on vacation," he mentioned.
- "The concert is tonight," they informed us.
- "I will call you tomorrow," she said.
- "They are studying for the test," he explained.
- "We have never been to Paris," they admitted.

Interrogative Sentences (Questions):

- "Are you going to the party?" she asked.
- "Have you finished your homework?" he inquired. my homework.
- "Will they join the club?" they wondered. club.
- "Did you enjoy the movie?" she asked.

- "Have you seen my keys?" he wondered.
- "Are they coming to the party?" I inquired.

Imperative Sentences (Commands/Requests):

- "Please pass the salt," she requested.
- "Don't touch that," he warned.
- "Shut the door," they ordered.
- "Open the window," he said.
- "Don't be late," they warned.

Exclamatory Sentences (Expressing Emotion or Surprise):

- "What a beautiful sunset!" she exclaimed.
- "I can't believe we won!" he shouted.
- "What a delicious cake!" she exclaimed.
- "What an incredible movie!" they cried out.