



Reported Speech

Past Events

Speaking & Discussion

Level B1

ENG_B1.1.0504S

Content

In this lesson you will learn about the reported speech and how to use it in conversations.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn various forms of reported speech
- Practice using the reported speech
- Learn to differentiate different styles of reported speech



Please note

The **reported speech** is used to report on what someone has said.

Direct Speech (using quotation marks)

Examples:

My friend said “I work here now”

Reported Speech

Examples:

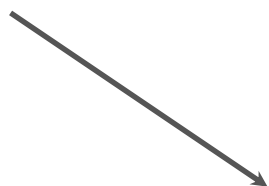
My friend said that he worked here now

**Please note**

In the reported speech, the present simple usually changes to the past simple

Examples:

“I **have** too many calls to answer!”



She said she **had** too many calls to answer



**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech

Ex. “He is so nice”

She told me he was so nice.

1) “I have seven cats”

She told me she _____ seven cats

2) “I travel a lot for work”

He said he _____ a lot for work.

3) “I ride my bicycle to work.”

She told me she _____ her bicycle to work.

4) “I read the newspaper daily.”

He told me he _____ the newspaper daily.

**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech. Simple present → Simple past

5) “I enjoy drinking coffee.”

She told me she _____ drinking coffee.

6) “I don’t eat meat.”

He told me he _____ meat.

7) “My mom always calls me”

He said his mom always _____ him.

8) “I don’t drive.”

She told us she _____.

9) “I walk in the park every night.”

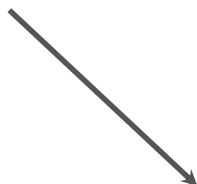
He told me he _____ in the park every night.

**Please note**

The **present continuous** usually changes to the ***past continuous*** in the reported speech.

Examples:

“I **am grilling** food for 20 people”



He said **was grilling** food for 20 people.



**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech.
Present continuous → Past continuous

Ex: “Stop. A car is coming”

She told me to stop because a car was coming.

1) “Nowadays, I am eating nothing but fish and kale”

She told me she _____ nothing but fish and kale.

2) “He’s talking on the phone”

She told me he _____ on the phone.

3) “Bring the umbrella, it’s beginning to rain.”

She told me to bring the umbrella because it _____
to rain.

**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech.
Present continuous → Past continuous

4) “We are shopping in the mall”

She told me she _____ at the mall.

5) “I am not eating that”

He told me he _____ eating that.

6) “Be quiet. The children are sleeping”

She told me to be quiet because the children _____.

7) “We are working on the project”.

He told us they _____ on the project.

**Please note**

You don't always have to change the tense. If something is still true now, you can use the present simple.

Examples:

“I live in a castle”

She told me she **lives** in a castle

“I work in advertising now”

He told me he **works** in advertising now.

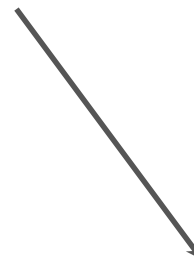


**Please note**

The *past simple* usually changes to the *past perfect*.

**Examples:**

“The dolphin **said** “Hi” to me.



He said the dolphin **had said** “Hi” to him.

**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech.
Past simple → past perfect

1) “I grew up in the South Bronx”

She told me she _____ up in the South Bronx.

2) “I rode my bike for 20 miles”

He told me she _____ her bike for 20 miles.

3) “We went on vacation on a cruise”

They told me they _____ on vacation on a
cruise.

4) “I studied economics at Wharton.”

She told me she _____ economics at
Wharton”

**Please note**

The *past continuous* changes to the *past perfect continuous*.

**Examples:**

“I **was walking** with my dog when he found a dead bird.



She said she **had been walking** with her dog when he found a dead bird.

**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech.
Past continuous → Past perfect continuous

1) “I was waiting for the bus when it started to rain”

She said she _____ for the bus when it started to rain.

2) “He was driving his car when he received a text”

He said he _____ his car when he received a text.

3) “I was reading a book when my kids came home from school”

She told me she _____ a book when her kids came back from school.

4) “I was sleeping when the earthquake hit.”

She told me she _____ when the earthquake hit”



Please note

The *present perfect* changes to the *past perfect*.

Examples:



“They **have been** such nice students”



She said they **had been** such nice students.

**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech.
Present perfect → Past perfect

1) “I’ve visited my grandparents twice this year”

He said he ____ his grandparents twice this year.

2) “I’ve never been to Canada”

She said she ____ never ____ to Canada.

3) “He has been so kind to me”

She said he ____ so kind to her.

4) “I have seen every movie he has made.”

He told me he ____ every movie he had made



Please note

The *past perfect* does not change!



Examples:

“I **had dated** two girls before I chose Zoe”



He said he **had dated** two girls before he chose Zoe.

**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech.
Past perfect!

1) “She had only been married with him for 2 weeks before they decided to get divorced”

She said she ____ only _____ married with him for two weeks before they decided to get divorced.

2) “I had only been there twice before it closed”

He said he _____ only _____ there twice before it closed.

3) “We had known each other before we met last week”

She told me they ____ ____ each other before they met last week.

**Please note**

The modal verb *can* becomes *could* in the reported speech.

**Examples:**

“I **can't** remember where it is”

She said she **couldn't** remember where it was.

“He **can't** come to my party”

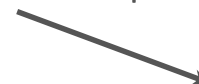
He told me he **couldn't** come to my party.

**Please note**

The modal verb *will* becomes *would* in the reported speech.

**Examples:**

“I **will** sleep more tonight.



She said she **would** sleep more tonight.

“He **won't** pay that much for a sandwich.”



He said that he **wouldn't** pay that much for a sandwich.

**Speaking**

Rewrite the sentences in the reported speech with modal verbs.

1) “I can only visit you after 8 pm”

She said she _____ only visit me after 8 pm.

2) “He can’t play because he broke his ankle”

He said he _____ play because he broke his ankle.

3) “You will never be happy”

She said I _____ never be happy

4) “You won’t notice the difference”

He said I _____ notice the difference

**Writing**

Write four sentences in the reported speech explaining what people said to you yesterday.

Ex) My mom told me she would come home early.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____



Speaking

Look at the image. What could these ladies be saying to each other? Use the reported speech.

Ex: She told her she couldn't believe he sent her such a funny picture!

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____



We would like to thank the following sources for their content

Images

Shutterstock – ID 45804100

Shutterstock – ID 15412453

Shutterstock – ID 64666108

Shutterstock – ID 84851632

Shutterstock – ID 60308731

Shutterstock – ID 61920064

Shutterstock – ID 51580990

Shutterstock – ID 11922676

Shutterstock – ID 71436475

Thank you

for choosing to learn
with

lingoda

