

REPORTED SPEECH (also called 'Indirect Speech')

- IF the introducing verb is in the past, use BACKSHIFT:

simple present becomes simple past

She said: 'I work'.

She said (that) she worked.

present continuous becomes past continuous

She said: "I am working".

She said (that) she was working.

simple past becomes past perfect

She said: 'I worked'.

She said (that) she had worked.

present perfect becomes past perfect

She said: 'I have worked'.

She said that she had worked.

simple future becomes would + infinitive

She said: 'I will work'.

She said (that) she would work.

Etcetera

You do NOT need backshift if the introducing verb is NOT in the past!

- Do not forget to change other words like
 - time indicators ('today' becomes 'that day', 'yesterday' becomes 'the day before', 'tomorrow' becomes 'the next day' etc.)
 - place indicators ('here' becomes 'there', 'this house' becomes 'that house', 'my country' becomes 'his/her... country' etc.)
 - personal pronouns ('my' becomes 'his'/'her'/'your'..., 'us' becomes 'they' etc.)

To choose the correct word, look at the context and meaning of the sentence.

Choose the correct sentence:

1. Tom said: 'I want to visit my friends this weekend.'
 - a. Tom said he wants to visit his friends that weekend.
 - b. Tom said he wanted to visit his friends that weekend.
 - c. Tom said he wanted to visit his friends this weekend.

2. Jerry said: 'I'm studying English a lot at the moment'.
 - a. Jerry said he was studying English a lot at that moment.
 - b. Jerry said he was studying English a lot at the moment.
 - c. Jerry said I was studying English a lot at that moment.

3. They said: 'We've lived here for a long time.'
 - a. They said they have lived there for a long time.
 - b. They said they lived here for a long time.
 - c. They said they had lived there for a long time.

4. He asked me: 'Have you finished reading the newspaper?'
 - a. He asked me if I have finished reading the newspaper.
 - b. He asked me if I had finished reading the newspaper.
 - c. He asked me if I finished reading the newspaper.

5. 'I get up every morning at seven o'clock.', Peter said.
 - a. Peter said he got up every morning at seven o'clock.
 - b. Peter said I got up every morning at seven o'clock.
 - c. Peter said he had got up every morning at seven o'clock.

6. Susan reassured me, 'I can come tonight.'
 - a. Susan told me I could come that night.
 - b. Susan told me she could come that night.
 - c. Susan told me she could come tomorrow evening.

7. She said, 'I really wish I had bought that new car.'
 - a. She told me she really wished she bought that new car.
 - b. She told me she really had wished she had bought that new car.
 - c. She told me she really wished she had bought that new car.

8. Jack said, 'He must be guilty!'
 - a. Jack said he must have been guilty.
 - b. Jack said he must have be guilty.
 - c. Jack said he must has been guilty.

Change these statements into reported speech:

1. "He works in a bank"

She said _____

2. "We went out last night"

She told me _____

3. "I'm coming!"

She said _____

4. "I was waiting for the bus when he arrived"

She told me _____

5. "I'd never been there before"

She said _____

6. "I didn't go to the party"

She told me _____

7. "Lucy'll come later"

She said _____

8. "He hasn't eaten breakfast"

She told me _____

9. "I can help you tomorrow"

She said _____

10. "You should go to bed early"

She told me _____

11. "I don't like chocolate"

She told me _____

12. "I won't see you tomorrow"

She said _____

13. "She's living in Paris for a few months"

She said _____

14. "I visited my parents at the weekend"

She told me _____

15. "She hasn't eaten sushi before"

She said _____

16. "I hadn't travelled by underground before I came to London"

She said _____

17. "They would help if they could"

She said _____

18. "I'll do the washing-up later"

She told me _____

19. "He could read when he was three"

She said _____

20. "I was sleeping when Julie called"

She said _____

KEY

Reported statements: Answers

1. She said (that) he worked in a bank.
2. She told me (that) they went (had gone) out last night (the night before).
3. She said (that) she was coming.
4. She told me (that) she was waiting for the bus when he arrived.
5. She said (that) she had never been there before.
6. She told me (that) she didn't go (hadn't gone) to the party.
7. She said (that) Lucy would come later.
8. She told me (that) he hadn't eaten breakfast.
9. She said (that) she could help me tomorrow.
10. She told me (that) I should go to bed early.
11. She told me (that) she didn't like chocolate.
12. She said (that) she wouldn't see me tomorrow.
13. She said (that) she is living in Paris for a few months.
14. She told me (that) she visited (had visited) her parents at the weekend.
15. She said (that) she hadn't eaten sushi before.
16. She said (that) she hadn't travelled by underground before she came to London.
17. She said (that) they would help if they could.
18. She told me (that) she would do the washing-up later.
19. She said (that) he could read when he was three.
20. She said (that) she had been sleeping when Julie called.

1. "Where is he?"

She asked me _____

2. "What are you doing?"

She asked me _____

3. "Why did you go out last night?"

She asked me _____

4. "Who was that beautiful woman?"

She asked me _____

5. "How is your mother?"

She asked me _____

6. "What are you going to do at the weekend?"

She asked me _____

7. "Where will you live after graduation?"

She asked me _____

8. "What were you doing when I saw you?"

She asked me _____

9. "How was the journey?"

She asked me _____

10. "How often do you go to the cinema?"

She asked me _____

11. "Do you live in London?"

She asked me _____

12. "Did he arrive on time?"

She asked me _____

13. "Have you been to Paris?"

She asked me _____

14. "Can you help me?"

She asked me _____

15. "Are you working tonight?"

She asked me _____

16. "Will you come later?"

She asked me _____

17. "Do you like coffee?"

She asked me _____

18. "Is this the road to the station?"

She asked me _____

19. "Did you do your homework?"

She asked me _____

20. "Have you studied reported speech before?"

She asked me _____

KEY

Reported Questions – Answers:

21. She asked me where he was.
22. She asked me what I was doing.
23. She asked me why I went (had gone) out last night.
24. She asked me who that beautiful woman was.
25. She asked me how my mother was.
26. She asked me what I was going to do at the weekend.
27. She asked me where I would live after graduation.
28. She asked me what I had been doing when she saw (had seen) me.
29. She asked me how the journey was (had been).
30. She asked me how often I went to the cinema.
31. She asked me if I lived in London.
32. She asked me if he arrived (had arrived) on time.
33. She asked me if I had been to Paris.
34. She asked me if I could help her.
35. She asked me if I was working tonight (that night).
36. She asked me if I would come later.
37. She asked me if I liked coffee.
38. She asked me if this was the road to the station.
39. She asked me if I did (had done) my homework.
40. She asked me if I had studied reported speech before.

Change into reported speech:

1. "Please help me carry this"

She asked me _____

2. "Please come early"

She _____

3. "Please buy some milk"

She _____

4. "Could you please open the window?"

She _____

5. "Could you bring the book tonight?"

She _____

6. "Can you help me with my homework, please?"

She _____

7. "Would you bring me a cup of coffee, please?"

She _____

8. "Would you mind passing the salt?"

She _____

9. "Would you mind lending me a pencil?"

She _____

10. "I was wondering if you could possibly tell me the time?"

She _____

11. "Do your homework!"

She told me _____

12. "Go to bed!"

She _____

13. "Don't be late!"

She _____

14. "Don't smoke!"

She _____

15. "Tidy your room!"

She _____

16. "Wait here!"

She _____

17. "Don't do that!"

She _____

18. "Eat your dinner!"

She _____

19. "Don't make a mess!"

She _____

20. "Do the washing-up!"

She _____

KEY

Reported Orders and Requests – Answers:

1. She asked me to help her carry this.
2. She asked me to come early.
3. She asked me to buy some milk.
4. She asked me to open the window.
5. She asked me to bring the book tonight (that night).
6. She asked me to help her with her homework.
7. She asked me to bring her a cup of coffee.
8. She asked me to pass the salt.
9. She asked me to lend her a pencil.
10. She asked me to tell her the time.
11. She told me to do my homework.
12. She told me to go to bed.
13. She told me not to be late.
14. She told me not to smoke.
15. She told me to tidy my room.
16. She told me to wait here (there).
17. She told me not to do that.
18. She told me to eat my dinner.
19. She told me not to make a mess.
20. She told me to do the washing-up.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.	NAME:
	NO:
	CLASS:
	DATE: SCORE: /40

GRAMMAR TEST: REPORTED SPEECH

Change the direct speech into reported speech. Choose the past simple of 'ask', 'say' or 'tell':

1. "Come quickly!"

She _____

2. "Did you arrive before seven?"

She _____

3. "How was your holiday?"

She _____

4. "I would have visited the hospital, if I had known you were sick"

She _____

5. "Don't touch!"

She _____

6. "Do you usually cook at home?"

She _____

7. "They had never been to Scotland until last year"

She _____

8. "Make sure you arrive early!"

She _____

9. "I should have studied harder for the exam"

She _____

10. "Would you mind telling me how to get to the art gallery, please?"

She _____

11. "Please don't forget my book"

She _____

12. "Make sure you arrive at six!"

She _____

13. "Remember to study hard!"

She _____

14. "Where do you want to eat tonight?"

She _____

15. "I usually drink coffee in the mornings"

She _____

16. "Do you like studying English?"

She _____

17. "I'll come and help you on Saturday"

She _____

18. "Please buy some bread on your way home"

She _____

19. "Please give this to John"

She _____

20. "Could you give me the glass on the table, please?"

She _____

Answers: Reported Speech Mixed Exercise 2

When I used 'said' you can also use 'told me'

1. She told me to come quickly.
2. She asked me if I arrived (had arrived) before seven.
3. She asked me how my holiday was (had been).
4. She said (that) she would have visited the hospital, if she had known I was sick.
5. She told me not to touch.
6. She asked me if I usually cooked at home.
7. She said (that) they had never been to Scotland until last year.
8. She told me to arrive early.
9. She said (that) she should have studied harder for the exam.
10. She asked me how to get to the art gallery.
(or: she asked me if I would mind telling her how to get to the art gallery).
11. She asked me not to forget her book.
12. She told me to arrive at six.
13. She told me to remember to study hard.
14. She asked me where I wanted tonight / that night.
15. She said that she usually drank coffee in the mornings.
16. She asked me if I liked studying English.
17. She said that she would come and help me on Saturday.
18. She asked me to buy some bread on my way home.
19. She asked me to give this to John.
20. She asked me to give her the glass on the table.

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GRAMMAR TEST: REPORTED SPEECH

Change the direct speech into reported speech. Choose the past simple of 'ask', 'say' or 'tell':

1. "Don't do it!"

She _____

2. "I'm leaving tomorrow"

She _____

3. "Please get me a cup of tea"

She _____

4. "She got married last year"

She _____

5. "Be quick!"

She _____

6. "Could you explain number four, please?"

She _____

7. "Where do you live?"

She _____

8. "We went to the cinema and then to a Chinese restaurant"

She _____

9. "I'll come and help you at twelve"

She _____

10. "What are you doing tomorrow?"

She _____

11. "Don't go!"

She _____

12. "Do you work in London?"

She _____

13. "Could you tell me where the post office is?"

She _____

14. "Come here!"

She _____

15. "I've never been to Wales"

She _____

16. "Have you ever seen 'Lord of the Rings'?"

She _____

17. "I don't like mushrooms"

She _____

18. "Don't be silly!"

She _____

19. "Would you mind waiting a moment please?"

She _____

20. "How often do you play sport?"

She _____

KEY

Answers: Mixed Reported Speech 1

(When I used 'said' you can also use 'told me')

1. She told me not to do it.
2. She said (that) she was leaving tomorrow (the next day).
3. She asked me to get her a cup of tea.
4. She said (that) she got married last year.
5. She told me to be quick.
6. She asked me to explain number four.
7. She asked me where I lived.
8. She said (that) they went (had been) to the cinema and then to a Chinese restaurant.
9. She said (that) she would come and help me at twelve.
10. She asked me what I was doing tomorrow (the day after).
11. She told me not to go.
12. She asked me if I worked in London.
13. She asked me to tell her where the post office was.
(or: she asked me if I could tell her where the post office was).
14. She told me to come here (there).
15. She said (that) she had never been to Wales.
16. She asked me if I had ever seen 'The Lord of the Rings'.
17. She said (that) she didn't like mushrooms.
18. She told me not to be silly.
19. She asked me to wait a moment.
(or: she asked me if I would mind waiting a moment).
20. She asked me how often I played sport.