

Reported speech – affirmative sentences

Cuando le decimos a alguien lo que otra persona nos dijo hace varios días en otro lugar, hay que cambiar el tiempo verbal, los deícticos (this, these, here) y las expresiones de tiempo:

<u>Direct speech</u>	<u>Reported speech</u>	<u>Direct speech</u>	<u>Reported speech</u>
<i>Present</i>	<i>past</i>	I live in London.	He said he lived in London.
<i>Past</i>	<i>past perfect</i>	She visited Paris.	She said she had visited Paris.
<i>Future</i>	<i>conditional</i>	I'll help you.	He said he would help me.

Tiempos que no cambian:

<i>(past perfect</i>	<i>past perfect</i>	I had gone to bed earlier.	He said he had gone to bed earlier.)
<i>(conditional</i>	<i>conditional</i>	I would like a beer.	He said he would like a beer.)

Otros tiempos cambian siguiendo la regla más parecida:

<i>Present continuous</i>	<i>pasado continuo</i>	<i>I am reading.</i>	<i>He said he was reading.</i>
<i>Present perfect</i>	<i>past perfect</i>	<i>I have finished.</i>	<i>He said he had finished.</i>

<u>Direct speech</u>	<u>Reported speech</u>
this	that
these	those
here	there

today	that day
tonight	that night
yesterday	the previous day / the day before
tomorrow	the following day / the day after / the next day
next week	the following week / the next week
last month	the previous month / the month before
the day before yesterday	two days before
the day after tomorrow	two days later
now / at the moment	then / at the moment
at this moment	at that moment
ago	before

Usamos el verbo TELL en lugar de SAY cuando nos interesa a quién le dijo alguien algo:

He said he would be late.

He told the teacher he would be late.

Reported speech – questions

En las “wh- questions” no se usa el típico orden Aux + S + V; se usa S + V, como en las afirmativas, sin usar “did” en el pasado simple:

<u>Direct speech</u>	<u>Reported speech</u>
Where does he live?	He asked me where he lived.
Why did you go?	She asked me why I had gone.
When will you come?	They asked me when I would come.

En las “yes/no questions” se empieza la oración con “if” o “whether” (significan lo mismo):

<u>Direct speech</u>	<u>Reported speech</u>
Do you like the pizza?	He asked me if I liked the pizza.
Did he tell you why he is so angry?	He asked me whether he had told me why he was so angry.

Exercise 1 – Escribe las oraciones siguientes en estilo indirecto. Imagina que John y Mary estuvieron hablando contigo hace una semana en su casa. Alterna las dos formas de empezar:

- 1.- John said...
- 2.- Mary told me...

TENSE	DIRECT SPEECH
1.- Present simple	I live here.
2.- Present continuous	I'm studying at this moment.
3.- Future simple	I'll go with you next day.
4.- Conditional simple	I'd like to be rich now.
5.- Perfect conditional	I'd never have done that to you.
6.- Past simple	I was ill yesterday.
7.- Present perfect	I haven't read this book yet.
8.- Past perfect	I had already seen that film.
9.- Past continuous	I was talking to him on the phone yesterday.
10.- Present perfect continuous	I've been writing these letters this morning.
11.- Past perfect continuous	I'd been talking to my brother the previous week.

Exercise 2 – Do the same with these sentences. Start all the sentences "Last week, Susan told me..."

- 1.- I study for two hours every day.
- 2.- Now I'm listening to my favourite programme.
- 3.- I did my homework an hour ago.
- 4.- I was writing an essay for English.
- 5.- I've already finished it.
- 6.- I had already written most of it during today's lesson.
- 7.- I've also been revising the vocabulary book for five minutes.
- 8.- Now I'm going to relax for a while.
- 9.- After supper I'm going to write a couple of letters.
- 10.- Maybe I'll write to Ann.
- 11.- I'd like to hear from her.
- 12.- Tomorrow I will have known her for three years.
- 13.- I would have written to her yesterday, but I didn't have time.
- 14.- You must meet her sometime.
- 15.- I'm sure you'd like her a lot.

Exercise 3 – Now do the same with these questions, beginning "She asked me..."

- 16.- How old are you?
- 17.- Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- 18.- What's your favourite subject?
- 19.- Have you ever been to England?
- 20.- Did you do the maths exercise?
- 21.- What marks did you get in the history exam?
- 22.- Were you at Mary's birthday party last Tuesday?
- 23.- Where will you spend your holiday next summer?
- 24.- Are you going to go out tomorrow evening?
- 25.- What are you going to do when you finish school?
- 26.- Can you lend me a pencil?
- 27.- What job would you like to have?
- 28.- Have you been revising for tomorrow's exam?
- 29.- Who had told you about Jane's accident?
- 30.- Do you think you'll be able to finish reading that book by next Thursday?

Exercise 4 – Write these sentences in reported speech:

- 1.- Ann said: I don't know what time I will come.
- 2.- Bill asked her: Who did you talk to at your meeting?
- 3.- Our teacher said: Write these sentences in the passive for tomorrow.
- 4.- My mother asked: Why don't you do your homework before supper?
- 5.- The government declared: We are going to improve the road system this year.
- 6.- The journalist asked: Why didn't you reform this law last year?
- 7.- I asked Carol: Do you still live with your parents?
- 8.- She answered: I will probably rent my own flat next month.
- 9.- I asked her: Are you planning to share it with a flatmate?
- 10.- She told me: I may try to find a nice flatmate, but I'm not sure.
- 11.- They asked us: Can you show us your photographs?
- 12.- I told the kids: Be quiet, please; your uncle is sleeping.
- 13.- He said to me: I have seen that girl somewhere before.
- 14.- She said: I didn't sleep very well last night.
- 15.- I asked: Where have you bought these shoes, Mary?
- 16.- They said: Would you like to see our new car?
- 17.- The policeman told David: Stop the engine and show me your driving license.
- 18.- My French friend said: I will bring you a present from my country next week.

Exercise 5 – Write these questions sentences in reported speech; use the same introductory verbs as in the direct question (ask, enquire, etc.):

- 1.- "Are these free-range eggs?", the customer asked.
- 2.- "Where are you going for your summer holidays?", I asked them.
- 3.- "Can I come in a little later tonight?", the au-pair girl asked.
- 4.- "Have you ever seen a flying saucer?" the man wanted to know.
- 5.- "Where can I park my caravan?" she asked the policeman.
- 6.- "Would you like a lift?", Ann offered. "Which way are you going?", I asked her.
- 7.- "Who do you want to speak to?", the telephonist asked me.
- 8.- "Does anyone want tickets for tonight's concert?", Charles asked.
- 9.- "What are you going to do with your old car?", I asked him.
- 10.- "Do you grow your own vegetables?", I asked her.
- 11.- "What train are you going to get?", my friend inquired.
- 12.- "Can you change a five-pound note? I haven't got anything smaller", the passenger asked the conductor.
- 13.- "How many sleeping pills did you take, Mr Jones?", the night nurse wanted to know. He said, "I have no idea".
- 14.- "Can we see the manager?", the two men asked. "Have you got an appointment?", the secretary asked.
- 15.- "Did you prepare your CV?", he asked.

Exercise 6 – Write these sentences in reported speech (change into full names all the nicknames you can):

- 1.- Bill said: "My father bought me this computer last week."
- 2.- Sam asked me: "How old are you?"
- 3.- Mike suggested: "Why don't we go to the cinema?"
- 4.- Rob told us: "I don't know anything about this."
- 5.- Bob told his secretary: "Type these letters and send them, please."
- 6.- Jill said: "I've already finished my homework."
- 7.- Sue asked: "What time are we going to have lunch today?"
- 8.- Jo explained: "I couldn't finish it in time because I started very late."
- 9.- Joe remarked: "That's a really beautiful castle."
- 10.- Ed told me: "I will do the cooking if you'll do the washing up."
- 11.- Kate replied: "I can't do this unless somebody gives me a hand."
- 12.- Jack said: "I would like to travel around the world if I had the money."
- 13.- Steph asked us: "When will you invite me to your house?"
- 14.- Tom told me: "I was washing my car when I saw your nephew."
- 15.- Liz told me: "I don't know what you're talking about."
- 16.- Meg asked me: "Have you ever talked to your parents about your future?"
- 17.- Jim suggested: "Let's go to the new disco."
- 18.- Ted decided: "I'll study for two more hours and then I'll go to bed."
- 19.- Tony assured us: "I'm not going to put up with this situation any longer."
- 20.- Jenny said: "I hope nothing serious will happen."
- 21.- Vicky said: "I think the fire began in the bedroom."
- 22.- Trish exclaimed: "I'd never seen anything like this."
- 23.- Nick told me: "I think you've been working too hard."
- 24.- Debbie advised me: "You should see a doctor about your headaches."
- 25.- Don replied to her: "I'm sorry, but I don't think yours is a good idea."
- 26.- Sam announced: "John and I are going to be married in June."
- 27.- Dan promised: "I will be here if I'm not late for the train, as usual."
- 28.- Andy reminded us: "Bring your camera if you want to, because it's a beautiful place."
- 29.- Ken insisted: "I haven't heard a thing about the stolen jewels."
- 30.- Phil said: "I don't know whether I should buy a house or rent a flat."
- 31.- Max asked: "Shall I bring some more potatoes?"
- 32.- Pat invited us: "Come into our house and have a glass of Irish whisky with us."
- 33.- Pam ordered me: "Just stay here and don't make a sound."
- 34.- Dick complained: "I can never watch the films I like on TV."
- 35.- Art assured us: "I've only been working here since Monday and I'm already fed up."