

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..."

- 12.- I study for two hours every day.
- 13.- Now I'm listening to my favourite programme.
- 14.- I did my homework an hour ago.
- 15.- I was writing an essay for English.
- 16.- I've already finished it.
- 17.- I had already written most of it during today's lesson.
- 18.- I've also been revising the vocabulary book for five minutes.
- 19.- Now I'm going to relax for a while.
- 20.- After supper I'm going to write a couple of letters.
- 21.- Maybe I'll write to Ann.
- 22.- I'd like to hear from her.
- 23.- Tomorrow I will have known her for three years.
- 24.- I would have written to her yesterday, but I didn't have time.
- 25.- You must meet her sometime.
- 26.- I'm sure you'd like her a lot.

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

- 27.- How old are you?
- 28.- Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- 29.- What's your favourite subject?
- 30.- Have you ever been to England?
- 31.- Did you do the maths exercise?
- 32.- What marks did you get in the history exam?
- 33.- Were you at Mary's birthday party last Tuesday?
- 34.- Where will you spend your holiday next summer?
- 35.- Are you going to go out tomorrow evening?
- 36.- What are you going to do when you finish school?
- 37.- Can you lend me a pencil?
- 38.- What job would you like to have?
- 39.- Have you been revising for tomorrow's exam?
- 40.- Who had told you about Jane's accident?
- 41.- Do you think you'll be able to finish reading that book by next Thursday?

Exercise 4 – Write these sentences in reported speech:

- 42.- Ann said: I don't know what time I will come.
- 43.- Bill asked her: Who did you talk to at your meeting?
- 44.- Our teacher said: Write these sentences in the passive for tomorrow.
- 45.- My mother asked: Why don't you do your homework before supper?
- 46.- The government declared: We are going to improve the road system this year.
- 47.- The journalist asked: Why didn't you reform this law last year?
- 48.- I asked Carol: Do you still live with your parents?
- 49.- She answered: I will probably rent my own flat next month.
- 50.- I asked her: Are you planning to share it with a flatmate?
- 51.- She told me: I may try to find a nice flatmate, but I'm not sure.
- 52.- They asked us: Can you show us your photographs?
- 53.- I told the kids: Be quiet, please; your uncle is sleeping.
- 54.- He said to me: I have seen that girl somewhere before.
- 55.- She said: I didn't sleep very well last night.
- 56.- I asked: Where have you bought these shoes, Mary?
- 57.- They said: Would you like to see our new car?
- 58.- The policeman told David: Stop the engine and show me your driving licence.
- 59.- 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.):

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

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

- 75.- Bill said: "My father bought me this computer last week."
- 76.- Sam asked me: "How old are you?"
- 77.- Mike suggested: "Why don't we go to the cinema?"
- 78.- Rob told us: "I don't know anything about this."
- 79.- Bob told his secretary: "Type these letters and send them, please."
- 80.- Jill said: "I've already finished my homework."
- 81.- Sue asked: "What time are we going to have lunch today?"
- 82.- Jo explained: "I couldn't finish it in time because I started very late."
- 83.- Joe remarked: "That's a really beautiful castle."
- 84.- Ed told me: "I will do the cooking if you'll do the washing up."
- 85.- Kate replied: "I can't do this unless somebody gives me a hand."
- 86.- Jack said: "I would like to travel around the world if I had the money."
- 87.- Steph asked us: "When will you invite me to your house?"
- 88.- Tom told me: "I was washing my car when I saw your nephew."
- 89.- Liz told me: "I don't know what you're talking about."
- 90.- Meg asked me: "Have you ever talked to your parents about your future?"
- 91.- Jim suggested: "Let's go to the new disco."
- 92.- Ted decided: "I'll study for two more hours and then I'll go to bed."
- 93.- Tony assured us: "I'm not going to put up with this situation any longer."
- 94.- Jenny said: "I hope nothing serious will happen."
- 95.- Vicky said: "I think the fire began in the bedroom."
- 96.- Trish exclaimed: "I'd never seen anything like this."
- 97.- Nick told me: "I think you've been working too hard."
- 98.- Debbie advised me: "You should see a doctor about your headaches."
- 99.- Don replied to her: "I'm sorry, but I don't think yours is a good idea."
- 100.- Sam announced: "John and I are going to be married in June."
- 101.- Dan promised: "I will be here if I'm not late for the train, as usual."
- 102.- Andy reminded us: "Bring your camera if you want to, because it's a beautiful place."
- 103.- Ken insisted: "I haven't heard a thing about the stolen jewels."
- 104.- Phil said: "I don't know whether I should buy a house or rent a flat."
- 105.- Max asked: "Shall I bring some more potatoes?"
- 106.- Pat invited us: "Come into our house and have a glass of Irish whisky with us."
- 107.- Pam ordered me: "Just stay here and don't make a sound."
- 108.- Dick complained: "I can never watch the films I like on TV."
- 109.- Art assured us: "I've only been working here since Monday and I'm already fed up."

Answer key

Exercise 1

Véase www.ies-modesto-navarro.es/european_section/1_info/grammar_faqs/reported_speech_spanish.htm

Exercise 2

Last week, Susan told me...

- 12.- ... she studied for two hours every day.
- 13.- ... then she was listening to her favourite programme.
- 14.- ... she had done her homework an hour before.
- 15.- ... she had been writing an essay for English.
- 16.- ... she had already finished it.
- 17.- ... she had already written most of it during that day's lesson.
- 18.- ... she had also been revising the vocabulary book for five minutes.
- 19.- ... then she was going to relax for a while.
- 20.- ... after supper she was going to write a couple of letters.
- 21.- ... maybe she would write to Ann.
- 22.- ... she would like to hear from her.
- 23.- ... the following day she would have known her for three years.
- 24.- ... she would have written to her the previous day, but she hadn't had time.
- 25.- ... I had to meet her sometime.
- 26.- ... she was sure I would like her a lot.

Exercise 3 – She asked me...

- 27.- ... how old I was.
- 28.- ... if I had any brothers or sisters.
- 29.- ... what was my favourite subject
- 30.- ... if I had ever been to England.
- 31.- ... I had done the maths exercise.
- 32.- ... what marks I had got in the history exam.
- 33.- ... if I had been at Mary's birthday party the previous Tuesday.
- 34.- ... where I would spend my holiday next summer. (she asked me last week, so I am still referring to the same summer; if she had asked me two years ago, I would say "the following summer").
- 35.- ... if I was going to go out the following evening.
- 36.- ... what I was going to do when I finished school.
- 37.- ... if I could lend her a pencil / to lend her a pencil.
- 38.- ... what job I would like to have.
- 39.- ... if I had been revising for the following day's exam.
- 40.- ... who had told me about Jane's accident.
- 41.- ... if I thought I would be able to finish reading that book by the following Thursday.

Exercise 4

- 42.- Ann said she didn't know what time she would come.
- 43.- Bill asked her who she had talked to at her meeting.
- 44.- Our teacher told us to write those sentences in the passive for the following day.
- 45.- My mother asked us why we didn't do our homework before supper. / asked me why I didn't do my...
- 46.- The government declared they were going to improve the road system that year.
- 47.- The journalist asked why they hadn't reformed that law the previous year.
- 48.- I asked Carol if she still lived with her parents.
- 49.- She answered she would probably rent her own flat the following month.
- 50.- I asked her if she was planning to share it with a flatmate.
- 51.- She told me she might try to find a nice flatmate, but she was not sure.
- 52.- They asked us to show them our photographs / They asked us if we could show them our photos.
- 53.- I told the kids to be quiet, because their uncle was sleeping.
- 54.- He said (to me) he had seen that girl somewhere before.
- 55.- She said she hadn't slept very well the previous night.
- 56.- I asked Mary where she had bought those shoes.
- 57.- They asked us if we would like to see their new car / They invited us to see their new car.
- 58.- The policeman told David to stop the engine and show him his driving licence.
- 59.- My French friend said he/she would bring me/us a present from his/her country the following week.

Exercise 5

- 60.- The customer asked if those were free-range eggs.
- 61.- I asked them where they were going for their summer holidays.
- 62.- The au-pair girl asked if she could come in a little later that night.
- 63.- The man wanted to know if I had ever seen a flying saucer.
- 64.- She asked the policeman where she could park her caravan.
- 65.- Ann offered me a lift, and I asked her which way she was going.
- 66.- The telephonist asked me who I wanted to speak to.
- 67.- Charles asked if anyone wanted tickets for that night's concert.
- 68.- I asked him what he was going to do with his old car.
- 69.- I asked her if she grew her own vegetables.
- 70.- My friend inquired what train I was going to get.
- 71.- The passenger asked the conductor if he could change a five-pound note because he didn't have anything smaller.
- 72.- The night nurse wanted to know how many sleeping pills Mr Jones had taken. He said he had no idea.
- 73.- The two men asked if they could see the manager, and the secretary asked (them) if they had an appointment.
- 74.- He asked (me) if I had prepared my CV.

Exercise 6 (all the nicknames have been converted into full names):

- 75.- William said his father had bought him that computer the previous week.
- 76.- Samuel asked me how old I was / I am.
- 77.- Michael suggested going to the cinema.
- 78.- Robert told us he didn't know anything about that.
- 79.- Robert asked / told his secretary to type those letters and send them.
- 80.- Jillian said she had already finished her homework.
- 81.- Susan asked what time we / they were going to give lunch that day.
- 82.- Josephine explained she hadn't been able to finish it in time because she had started very late.
- 83.- Joseph remarked that was a really beautiful castle.
- 84.- Edward told me he would do the cooking if I'd do the washing up.
- 85.- Katherine replied she couldn't do that unless somebody gave her a hand.
- 86.- John said he would like to travel around the world if he had the money.
- 87.- Stephanie asked us when we would invite her to our house.
- 88.- Thomas told me he was washing his car when he saw my nephew.
- 89.- Elizabeth told me she didn't know what I was talking about.
- 90.- Margaret asked me if I had you ever talked to my parents about my future.
- 91.- James suggested going to the new disco.
- 92.- Theodore decided he would study for two more hours and then he'd go to bed.
- 93.- Anthony assured us he was not going to put up with that situation any longer.
- 94.- Jennifer said she hoped nothing serious would happen.
- 95.- Victoria said she thought the fire had began in the bedroom.
- 96.- Patricia exclaimed she had never seen anything like that.
- 97.- Nicholas told me he thought I had been working too hard.
- 98.- Deborah advised me to see a doctor about my headaches.
- 99.- Donald replied to her he was sorry, but he didn't think hers was a good idea.
- 100.- Samantha announced John and she were going to be married in June.
- 101.- Daniel promised he would be there if he was not late for the train, as usual.
- 102.- Andrew reminded us to bring our camera if we wanted to, because it was a beautiful place.
- 103.- Kenneth insisted he hadn't heard a thing about stolen jewels.
- 104.- Phillip said he didn't know whether he should buy a house or rent a flat.
- 105.- Maximilian asked if he should bring some more potatoes.
- 106.- Patrick invited us to come into their house and have a glass of Irish whisky with them.
- 107.- Pamela ordered me to (just) stay there and not to make a sound.
- 108.- Richard complained he could never watch the films he liked on TV.
- 109.- Arthur assured us he had only been working there since Monday and he was already fed up.