

Reported Speech Exercises

You have learned that we can report the words of a speaker in two ways.

We may quote the speaker's actual words. This is called direct speech.

My friends said, "We enjoyed our holiday in London."

Kavish said, "I was working on my project."

"I shall come to your party," Navya promised.

Note that indirect speech

- inverted commas are used to indicate the exact words of the speaker. (You may use either single or double inverted commas.)
- a comma is placed immediately after the reporting verb. (In the third example the sentence ends with the reporting verb and is, therefore, followed by a full stop.)
- the punctuation at the end of the sentence in direct speech is placed before the closed inverted comma(s).

We can also report what the speaker said without quoting his / her exact words. This is called indirect speech or reported speech.

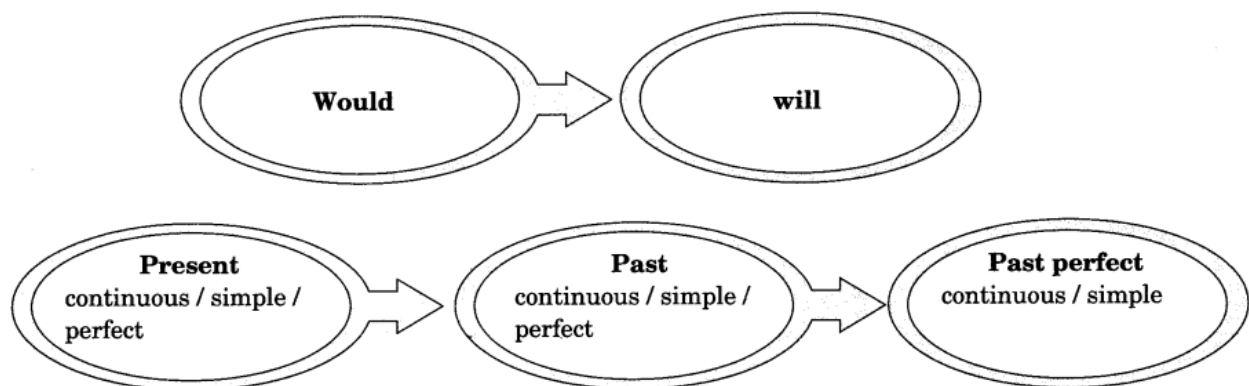
My friends said that they had enjoyed their holiday in London.

Kavish said that he was/had been working on his project.

Navya promised that she would come to my party.

In indirect speech, we:

- use the conjunction that immediately before the reported words.
- change the person of the first and second-person pronouns.
- change the tense of the verb.
- do not use inverted commas.



Most Common Transformations

Direct speech

Reported speech

Tense Change

is/am	was
are	were
have	had
do	did
was/ were	had been
will	would
can	could

Modal Change

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
will	would
can	could
must/ have to	must or had to
may/might	might
should	should
ought to	ought to

Place and Time

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
today	that day
now	then/at the moment

yesterday	the day before
days ago	days before
last week	the week before
next year	the following years
tomorrow	the next day, the following day
here	there
this	that
these	those
ago	previously/before
tonight	that night

Direct Speech

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present simple He said, "I want to watch a film" • Present Continuous He said, "Jane is sleeping." • Present Perfect She said, "I have bought a new dress." • Past Simple Alex said, "I finished my homework." • Will She said, "I will always love Tom." • Can Tom said, "I can carry 50 kg." • May Ben said, "It may rain." • Must He said, "Everybody must obey the rules." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past simple He said (that) he wanted to watch a film • Past Continuous He said (that) Jane was sleeping. • Past Perfect She said (that) she had bought a new dress. • Past Perfect Alex said (that) he had finished his homework. • Would She said (that) she would always love Tom. • Could Tom said (that) he could carry 50 kg • Might Ben said (that) it might rain.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have to <p>She said, "I have to go home."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had to <p>He said (that) everybody had to obey the rules."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had to <p>She said (that) she had to go home.</p>
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Question 1.

Change into reported speech.

(i) Rahul said, "I like fiction.

(ii) The girl said, 'I am writing a letter'.

(iii) The boy said to the girl, 'I am waiting for you.'

- (iv) The masons said, 'We have finished the job.'
- (v) The boy said, 'I have been selected.'
- (vi) The teacher said to the girl, 'Have you done your homework?'
- (vii) The teacher said to the boy, 'Work hard.'
- (viii) The man said, 'I have lost my bag.'
- (ix) The traveller said, 'Where is the nearest inn?'
- (x) I said to him, 'Will you help me?'

Answer:

- (i) Rahul said that he like fiction.
- (ii) The girl said that she was writing a letter.
- (iii) The boy said that he was waiting for you.
- (iv) The masons said that they had finished the job.
- (v) The boy said that he had been selected.
- (vi) The teacher asked the girl if she had done your homework.
- (vii) The teacher encouraged the boy to work hard.
- (viii) The man said that he had lost his bag.
- (ix) The traveller asked where the nearest inn was.
- (x) I asked him if he would help me.

Question 2.

Change this direct speech into reported speech.

- (i) 'He works in a bank'

She said _____

- (ii) We went out last night

She told me _____

- (iii) 'I'm coming!'

She said _____

- (iv) 'I was waiting for the bus when he arrived

She told me _____

- (v) 'I'd never been there before'

She said _____

- (vi) 'I didn't go to the party

She told me _____

- (vii) 'Lucy'll come later

She said _____

- (viii) 'He hasn't eaten breakfast

She told me _____

- (v) 'I can help you tomorrow'

She said _____

- (vi) You should go to bed early

She told me _____

Answer:

- (i) She said (that) he worked in a bank.
- (ii) She told me (that) they went (had gone) out last night (the night before).

- (iii) She said (that) she was coming.
- (iv) She told me (that) she was waiting for the bus when he arrived.
- (v) She said (that) she had never been there before.
- (vi) She told me (that) she didn't go (hadn't gone) to the party.
- (vii) She said (that) Lucy would come later.
- (viii) She told me (that) he hadn't eaten breakfast.
- (v) She said (that) she could help me tomorrow.
- (vi) She told me (that) I should go to bed early.

Question 1.

Below you can read a conversation between Reena and her husband Somu. Complete the following sentence reporting what they discussed.

Reena: Our new servant has a tendency to steal things.

Somu: Is anything missing?

Reena: Yes, he has stolen one of our watches.

Somu: Which one?

Reena: It's the one we bought from Pacific Mall.

Reena told her husband that (a) _____ a tendency to steal things. Somu asked her (b) _____. She told him that (c) _____. When Somu asked her which one it was, she replied that it was the one they had bought from Pacific Mall.

Question 2.

Read the conversation given below and complete the paragraph.

Mother: When is the fancy dress competition going to be held in your school?

Rani: After two weeks.

Mother: Are you taking part in it?

Rani: Yes! I am going to be a fairy.

Mother: Why have you chosen that part?

Rani: So that I can show my magical powers.

Mother asked Rani when the fancy dress competition in her school was going to be held. Rani replied that (a) _____. Mother enquired whether (b) _____. Rani (c) _____. Mother asked why she had chosen that part. She replied that she had chosen that part so that she could show her magical powers.