

## Usage

When we want to report what someone has said or his or her thoughts or ideas, we make changes to the direct quote of the speaker's exact wording in the quotation marks.

**e.g.** 'My family will go to Japan this spring,' Jay thought.

→ Jay thought (that) his family would go to Japan that spring.

**e.g.** 'We were sleeping in the tree house last night,' said Kate.

→ Kate said (that) they had been sleeping in the tree house the night before.

**e.g.** 'I can't chew a steak now,' Grandpa told me.

→ Grandpa told me (that) he couldn't chew a steak then.



## Educator's Tips

**When** we use reported speech to report statements, note that:

1. we can omit the word *that* after some reporting verbs like *say*, *tell* and *think*.

**e.g.** Bobby said he was hungry.

2. we have to put an object after *tell*, but not *say*.

✗ Bobby **told** (that) he was hungry.

✓ Bobby **told** us (that) he was hungry. **object**

✓ Bobby **said** (that) he was hungry.



## Part 1 Change of Verb Tenses

When we report a statement, we need to change the verb tenses.

Direct speech	→	Reported speech
<b>The simple present</b> e.g. 'I <i>don't like</i> you,' said Paul.		<b>The simple past</b> e.g. Paul said (that) he <i>didn't like</i> them.
<b>The simple past</b> e.g. 'You all <i>failed</i> the exam,' said Mr Li.		<b>The past perfect</b> e.g. Mr Li said (that) they <i>had all failed</i> the exam.
<b>The simple future</b> e.g. 'Tom <i>will not leave</i> ,' said Joey.		<b>Would + bare infinitive</b> e.g. Joey said (that) Tom <i>would not leave</i> .
<b>The present perfect</b> e.g. 'We <i>have bought</i> a pizza,' said John.		<b>The past perfect</b> e.g. John said (that) they <i>had bought</i> a pizza.
<b>The present continuous</b> e.g. 'I'm <i>dancing</i> happily,' said Liza.		<b>The past continuous</b> e.g. Liza said (that) she <i>was dancing</i> happily.
<b>The past continuous</b> e.g. 'Sally <i>was crying</i> ,' said Frank.		<b>The past perfect continuous</b> e.g. Frank said (that) Sally <i>had been crying</i> .
<b>Be going to</b> e.g. 'I <i>am going to see</i> the doctor,' said Kay.		<b>Was / Were going to</b> e.g. Kay said (that) she <i>was going to see</i> the doctor.
<b>Can</b> e.g. 'We <i>can order</i> a cake,' said Jane.		<b>Could</b> e.g. Jane said (that) they <i>could order</i> a cake.



### Educator's Tips



**We** do not change the verb tense in reported speech when the verb is in **the past perfect**.

Direct speech	→	Reported speech
<b>The past perfect</b> e.g. 'I <i>had cleaned</i> the room before Dad arrived home,' Mum said.		<b>The past perfect</b> e.g. Mum said (that) she <i>had cleaned</i> the room before Dad arrived home.





## Part 2 Change of Certain Words

Apart from changing the verb tenses, we also need to make the following changes.

### 2.1. Pronouns and possessive adjectives

Direct speech	→			Reported speech
Subject pronoun	I → he / she	we → they	you → he / she / they	
Object pronoun	me → him / her	us → them	you → him / her / them	
Possessive adjective	my → his / her	our → their	your → his / her / their	
Possessive pronoun	mine → his / hers	ours → theirs	yours → his / hers / theirs	
Reflexive pronoun	myself → himself / herself	ourselves → themselves	yourself / yourselves → himself / herself / themselves	

**e.g.** 'I can finish the task by **myself**,' John said.

→ John said (that) **he** could finish the task by **himself**.

**e.g.** 'We will have a house that belongs to **us**,' Jack told Amy.

→ Jack told Amy (that) **they** would have a house that belonged to **them**.

### 2.2 Time markers

Direct speech	→		Reported speech
now			then / at that time / at that moment
today / tonight / this morning			that day / that night / that morning
yesterday			the day before / the previous day
last night			the night before / the previous night
two days ago			two days before
tomorrow			the following day / the next day / the day after
next week			the following week / the next week / the week after

**e.g.** 'We are going to meet again **next week** to discuss our project,' the manager told the staff.

→ The manager told the staff (that) they were going to meet again **the next week** to discuss their project.

### 2.3. Certain words

Direct speech		→		Reported speech
this → these	that → those	here → there	come → go	

**e.g.** 'This shop is the best one **here** so I recommend it to you,' Judy told Mary.

→ Judy told Mary (that) **that** shop was the best one **there** so she recommended it to her.



## Steps

When we report statements, we take the following steps:



### Example

'My family adopted this dog a year ago,' Ray said.  
(Direct speech)



My family adopted this dog a year ago, Ray said.



Ray **said** (that) my family adopted this dog a year ago.



Ray said (that) **his** family **had** adopted **that** dog a year **before**.  
(Reported speech)

### STEP 1

Omit the quotation marks

### STEP 2

Use a reporting verb (such as *say* and *tell*) followed by a *that*-clause

### STEP 3

Change the verb tenses, pronouns, time markers, etc.

## Exercise 2

Change the following statements into reported speech. Pay attention to the underlined words.

1. 'We can make a cake for you now,' the kids told their parents.

→ The kids told their parents that they could make a cake for them then.



2. 'My mum cooked me a nice meal yesterday,' Fanny told Mary.

→ Fanny told Mary that my mum cooked me a nice meal yesterday.

3. 'I was not walking my dog this morning,' Joe said.

→ Joe said that he was not walking his dog this morning.



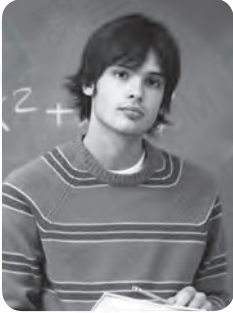
4. 'This place is nice. We will come here again next week,' the couple said.

→ The couple said that this place is nice. We will come here again next week.

**Theme:** Crime**Text Type:** Magazine article

## Unit Recap

Tina is writing an article about a drug addict's experience for the school magazine. Read what David said in a school talk. Complete the article by changing the underlined parts into reported speech.



Life can be totally different just because of a small pill. A friend gave me some Ecstasy pills three years ago. I was curious about taking drugs and many of my friends were doing this, so I had a try... We used all our money to buy drugs. We became pale, thin and weak... It took me two years to withdraw from drug addiction. I'm talking here bravely because I really want to share my experience. I hope that you won't repeat what I've done.

### Say 'NO' to drugs



Last month, our school invited David Parker, who was once a drug addict, to share his experience of drug addiction. David commented that life (1) \_\_\_\_\_ just because of a small pill. He recalled that a friend (2) \_\_\_\_\_ some Ecstasy pills (3) \_\_\_\_\_. He said (4) \_\_\_\_\_ about taking drugs and many of his friends (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, he gave it a try.

Soon David and his friends became addicted. David remembered that (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Then, they became pale, thin and weak. He said that (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

He explained that (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in our school bravely because (9) \_\_\_\_\_. He hoped that (10) \_\_\_\_\_.



#### Vocabulary:

Ecstasy pills (n. phr.): a powerful drug that makes you feel very active, and can cause you to see or hear things that do not exist

addict (n.): a person who cannot stop doing or using something harmful