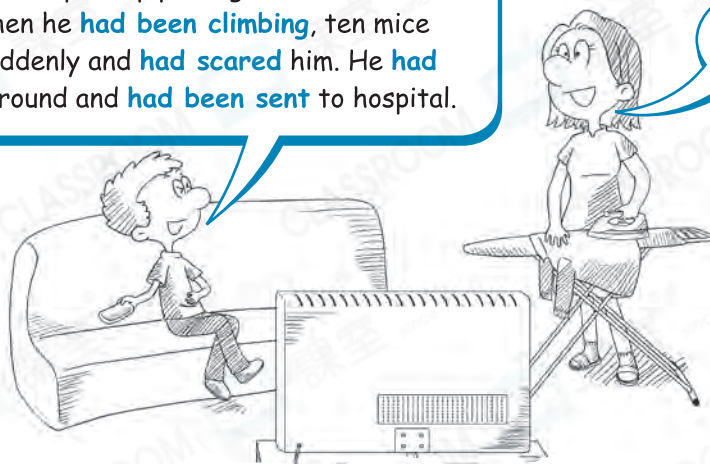


Mum, I heard a piece of fun news. The reporter said a burglar **had climbed** up the pipe to get into a flat the night before. When he **had been climbing**, ten mice **had appeared** suddenly and **had scared** him. He **had fallen** onto the ground and **had been sent** to hospital.

What a silly burglar...



Usage

We use reported speech:

1. to report **statements**.

e.g. *My mum told me that she was very disappointed with my exam results.*

2. to report **questions**.

e.g. *'Where have you been?' my dad asked. (Wh-question)*

→ *My dad asked where I had been.*

e.g. *'Am I fit enough to join the marathon?' I asked Macy. (Yes / No-question)*

→ *I asked Macy if / whether I was fit enough to join the marathon.*

e.g. *'Do you need help?' Miss Wong asked Samuel. (Yes / No-question)*

→ *Miss Wong asked Samuel if / whether he needed help.*



Educator's Tips

When using reported speech, remember to change the **tenses, time markers, pronouns, possessive adjectives** and **certain words**.

e.g. *Dad said he **had worked** for 14 hours **the day before**.*
(Tenses and time markers)

e.g. *Peggy's brother told **her** to return **his** book to the library for **him**.*
(Pronouns and possessive adjectives)

e.g. *Ashley said **those** boots looked great and she would **go to that** boutique again. (Certain words like *this, these, here, come*)*

Revision

Change the following sentences into reported speech.

1. 'I live in Tseung Kwan O with my parents,' Jacky said.

Jacky said (that) _____ *he lived in Tseung Kwan O with his parents.*

2. 'The kids have finished their homework,' the maid told her master.

The maid told _____

3. 'Josie is busy doing the project with her classmates,' I replied to Anna.

I replied _____

4. 'You didn't hand in your homework yesterday,' Miss Wong explained to Alan.



Reporting Yes-No questions

Apart from changing the tenses, time markers and pronouns, we need to make the following changes when reporting *yes-no* questions:

Step	Yes-No question	Reported question
1. Use a reporting verb (<i>asked, wondered, etc.</i>) and put an object after it when necessary.	'Are you nervous?' the coach asked his team.	The coach asked his team if they were nervous.
2. Use if or whether after the reporting verb or the object.	'Have you done the washing?' Mum asked.	Mum asked if / whether I had done the washing.
3. Put the subject after if / whether immediately before the verb.	' Is Janet a librarian?' Miss Wong inquired.	Miss Wong inquired if / whether Janet was a librarian.
4. Omit the auxiliary verb (<i>do, did, does</i>) if necessary and change the tense of the verb.	' Does Peter like singing?' Judy wondered.	Judy wondered if / whether Peter liked singing.
5. Replace the question mark with a full stop .	'Were you reading this morning?' Ann asked me.	Ann asked me if / whether I had been reading this morning.



Reporting Wh-questions

Apart from changing the tenses, time markers and pronouns, we need to make the following changes when reporting *Wh*-questions:

Step	<i>Wh</i> -question	Reported question
1. Use a reporting verb (<i>asked, doubted, etc.</i>) and put an object after it when necessary.	'Why are you so emotional?' I asked my sister.	I asked my sister why she was so emotional.
2. Keep the question word or phrase .	' How far can you swim?' the P.E. teacher asked.	The P.E. teacher asked how far I could swim.
3. Put the subject after the question word immediately before the verb.	'What has the government done to solve this problem?' the public doubted.	The public doubted what the government had done to solve that problem.
4. Omit the auxiliary verb (<i>do, did, does</i>) if necessary.	'Which colour do you prefer?' the salesperson asked the customer.	The salesperson asked the customer which colour he preferred .
5. Replace the question mark with a full stop .	'When does your father go home?' Maggie asked Jade.	Maggie asked Jade when her father went home.

Exercise 1

Change the following sentences into reported speech.

1. Tina asked me, 'Does Lily have a dog?'

Tina asked me _____ *if / whether Lily had a dog.*

2. Joey asked Henry, 'What time is the concert tomorrow?'

Joey asked _____

3. Frank asked Edward, 'Is Tommy still talking with April?'

4. Joyce wanted to know, 'How much did the dress cost?'

Exercise 2

Oliver is adapting the script of the play *Becoming a Shopaholic* for a novel. Complete the adaptation by changing the sentences into reported speech.

Becoming a Shopaholic

SCENE 1: (Mary and Judy are at a luxurious shopping mall on a Sunday afternoon.)

Mary: I am so content now with all of these! (holding 11 paper bags in her hands)

Judy: You've bought too many clothes and accessories! (complaining)

Mary: Why don't you buy something for yourself?

Judy: The things sold in this mall are very expensive. I can't afford them.

Mary: Come on! The shops are having summer sales!

Judy: How do you settle the credit card statements?

Mary: Um...I will ask my parents for help if I can't settle them.

Judy: Are you sure your parents will help you?

Mary: Not really. (shrugging) Anyway, let's go to a café and take a rest first. (heading towards a café)



As usual, Mary and Judy spent the weekend in a luxurious shopping mall. The massive sales gave the shopaholic Mary good excuses to shop crazily. Mary was content with the things she had bought. Judy complained to Mary that (1) _____, but Mary wondered (2) _____. Judy explained that (3) _____. She (4) _____. Mary told her that the shops (5) _____. However, Judy changed the subject and wanted to know (6) _____. Mary replied that (7) _____. Judy doubted (8) _____. Not knowing the answer, Mary shrugged. She stopped talking about that and suggested sitting down in a café and taking a rest.

Theme: Crime
Text Type: Conversation

Unit Recap

Kenji was telling a policeman how he was cheated, but he made some mistakes about reported speech. Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct words in the spaces provided.

- Kenji : Sir, I was cheated in a fraud. I lost my smartphone!
- Policeman : Calm down. Tell me what happened clearly.
- Kenji : I was walking along Sun Fat Street when I met two foreigners. They told me that **(1) we** got lost.
- Policeman : What are their nationalities? What did they look like?
- Kenji : They said they **(2) are** from Brazil. They were a couple aged around 35. They were wearing T-shirts and jeans.
- Policeman : OK. What did they say or do to you?
- Kenji : The woman asked me **(3) whether** Shepherd Restaurant was, but I had no idea about it. Then the man explained that he wanted to call his friend who had been with them an hour **(4) ago** but his mobile phone **(5) run** out of battery. He asked me **(6) how** I could lend him mine.
- Policeman : So you gave him your phone without a second thought?
- Kenji : I hesitated at first, but the man gave me his smartphone in return and told me that I could keep **(7) this** when he was using mine. So I agreed.
- Policeman : I see. It seemed fair. What happened afterwards?
- Kenji : The man said the connection **(8) is** poor so he and his wife walked further away with my phone. They asked if I **(9) can** stay **(10) here** for a while. I waited for more than 15 minutes but they didn't return. I examined the man's phone and found that it was a fake one!
- Policeman : Okay, I've noted down everything. We'll let you know if there is any news.



1. _____ *they* _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



Vocabulary:

fraud (n.): the crime of cheating somebody in order to get money or goods

hesitate (v.): to pause before doing or saying something, usually because you are uncertain or nervous about it