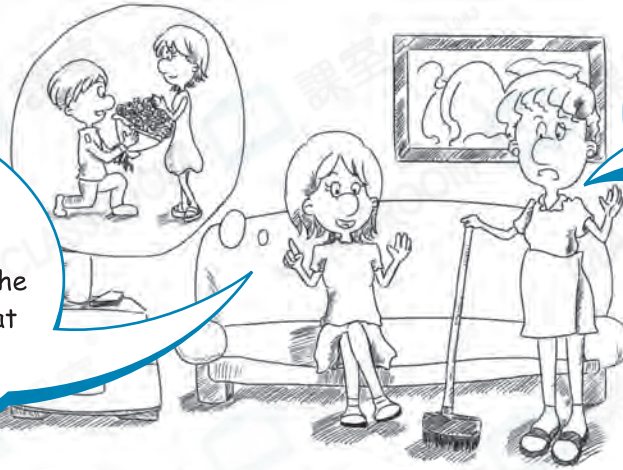


13

Reported speech (II)

George **requested** me to marry him. He **offered** to buy a big house for me. He also **told** me not to work. The most important thing is that he **promised** to do all the housework! So I said yes!



Although you've never done any housework since you were born, you shouldn't say yes to a proposal just because of housework!



Usage

Apart from using reported speech to report statements and questions, we can also use it:

1. to report **commands**.

e.g. 'Wake up before 7 am,' Mum told George. (Command)

→ Mum told George **to wake up** before 7 am.

2. to report **requests**.

e.g. 'Please stand behind the yellow line,' the MTR station officer requested the passengers. (Request)

→ The MTR station officer requested the passengers **to stand** behind the yellow line.

3. to report **offers**.

e.g. 'I can give you a 5% discount,' the shop manager offered. (Offer)

→ The shop manager offered **to give** me a 5% discount.



Educator's Tips

When using reported speech to report commands and requests, reporting verbs such as **told, asked, ordered, requested, reminded, warned** are often used, followed by an **object** and a **to-infinitive**. We add **not** before the **to-infinitive** if the commands and requests are negative.

e.g. The master **ordered his dog not to bark.** (= Don't bark!)

e.g. The customs officer **requested the tourist to show her passport.**
(= Please show your passport.)



Reporting Commands, Requests & Offers

Apart from changing the tenses, time markers and pronouns, we need to make the following changes when reporting commands, requests and offers:

Step	Command / request / offer	Reported command / request / offer
1. Use a reporting verb (<i>told, asked, ordered, etc.</i>) and put an object after it when necessary.	'You should eat less oily food,' the nutritionist said to her patient.	The nutritionist told her patient to eat less oily food.
2. Use a to-infinitive immediately after the object (or the reporting verb if there is no object).	'Don't eat or drink on the train,' the train staff requested the passengers.	The train staff requested the passengers not to eat or drink on the train.
3. Omit the words <i>please, don't</i> and <i>can</i> and change the exclamation mark to a full stop .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Please help me!' Maria begged Josie. 'I can give you some money,' Patrick said. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria begged Josie to help her. Patrick offered to give me some money.

Exercise 1

Change the following commands, requests and offers into reported speech.

1. 'Please switch off the television,' Mum said to Dad.

Mum asked Dad _____ *to switch off the television.*

2. 'Don't run in the corridor!' Miss Chan told the students.

Miss Chan warned _____

3. 'I can buy you a cake,' my sister offered.

My sister offered _____

4. 'Please show your membership card,' the waiter requested the customer.

5. 'Pack your things quickly!' the officer ordered the soldiers.

Exercise 2

Eugene wrote a diary entry, but he made some mistakes about reported speech. Correct the underlined mistakes and fill in the missing words marked with a 'Λ'. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Friday, 15th January

Cloudy

Dear Diary,

I got bad news today. My class teacher, Miss Lee, **(1)** says that I had failed several subjects. She explained that she **(2)** will discuss this matter with my parents. She asked me **(3)** Λ I had any difficulties with my studies. She wanted to help me. I replied that I **(4)** have worked part-time at a fast food shop for about three months. She wondered if **(5)** I can handle my studies and the part-time job at the same time. I responded that I **(6)** thought I could at the beginning, but it **(7)** seem not the case. Miss Lee offered **(8)** had extra tutorial classes with me on Monday and Friday after school. She requested me **(9)** Λ quit my part-time job until **(10)** you could make improvement in my studies. She also asked me **(11)** did I set a timetable to make the best use of my time. She reminded **(12)** Λ that I could go to the school library to do my revision. I promised to study harder and **(13)** Λ to let her down again.

Time for bed now.

Eugene



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

Unit Recap

Mei Lai is recounting her experience of being kidnapped to Inspector Chan. Complete the victim's statement form by changing what she said into reported speech.



It happened at about 3:30 pm today. I was walking home from school. Suddenly, two men jumped out from a van and grabbed me into it. I was so scared that I kept screaming! I was then tied up, and my mouth and eyes were covered. One of the men told me, 'Shut up or I'll kill you!' I heard the driver ask, 'Are we heading towards our lair?' And another man ordered him, 'Drive anywhere you like to keep the police out of sight first.' I didn't know how long I had been in the van. I just begged God, 'Please save me!' After a long while, the van stopped and I was brought out of it...

Victim's Statement Form

Victim's name: Wong Mei Lai

HKID: A284765(1)

Details of crime

Date: 18 / 9 / 20XX

Time: 3:30 pm

Victim's recount

Wong said that she (1) _____ . She said that suddenly, two men had jumped out from a van and had grabbed her into it. She recalled that (2) _____ . She said that she had then been tied up, (3) _____ . According to Wong, one of the men ordered (4) _____ . The driver (5) _____ . Another man (6) _____ to keep the police out of sight first. Wong said that (7) _____ . She had just (8) _____ .



Vocabulary:

head (v.): to move in a particular direction

lair (n.): a place where somebody goes to hide