




DIRECT & REPORTED SPEECH

Direct and Reported Speech – What’s the Difference?


What is Direct Speech?

We use direct speech to show the exact words someone said. We use quotation marks (“ ”) around the sentence.

Example: Maria said, “I am tired.”  We can see her exact words.

What is Reported Speech?

We use reported speech to tell someone what another person said. We don’t use quotation marks. We often change the verb tense.

Example: Maria said that she was tired.  We are telling someone what Maria said, not her exact words.

How Do We Change the Sentence?

When we change from direct to reported speech, we usually:

1. Change the verb tense

Direct Speech Reported Speech

“I am happy.” → She said she was happy.

“I like pizza.” → He said he liked pizza.

“We are studying.” → They said they were studying.

2. Change the pronouns

Direct Speech Reported Speech

“I am tired.” → She said she was tired.

“We are ready.” → They said they were ready.

3. Change the time words

Direct Speech Reported Speech

“I will go tomorrow.” → He said he would go the next day.

“I saw her yesterday.” → She said she had seen her the day before.

Quick Tips

We often use said that or told me that in reported speech. Example: "I'm hungry." → She said that she was hungry.

If the reporting verb is in the past, change the verb tense. Example: "I am tired." → He said he was tired.

Practice Time

◆ Change to Reported Speech

1. "I am cold." _____
2. "We are watching a movie." _____
3. "I will call you tomorrow." _____
4. "She likes chocolate." _____
5. "They went to the park yesterday." _____

Teacher's Key

Change to Reported Speech

- "I am cold." *She said (that) she was cold.*
("am" changes to "was"; "I" becomes "she")
- "We are watching a movie." *They said (that) they were watching a movie.*
("are watching" becomes "were watching"; "we" becomes "they")
- "I will call you tomorrow." *He said (that) he would call me the next day.*
("will" becomes "would"; "you" becomes "me"; "tomorrow" becomes "the next day")
- "She likes chocolate." *He said (that) she liked chocolate.*
("likes" becomes "liked"; no pronoun change needed)
- "They went to the park yesterday." *She said (that) they had gone to the park the day before.*
("went" becomes "had gone"; "yesterday" becomes "the day before")