



DIRECT & REPORTED SPEECH

Reported Speech – Detective Edition

Theme: A detective interviews witnesses and reports what they said.

Focus: Reported speech (statements, questions, and commands)

Style: Story-based, interactive, and grammar-rich.

◆ Activity 1: Detective’s Notebook – What Did They Say?

Read the detective’s notes. Then write what each person said using reported speech.



Detective’s Notes: I spoke to three people at the scene.

The shopkeeper said, “I saw someone run past the window.”

The customer said, “I was paying for my groceries.”

The security guard said, “Don’t touch anything!”



Your Task: Write what the detective reported.

◆ Activity 2: Reconstruct the Dialogue

The detective wrote a report using reported speech. Rewrite it as a dialogue using direct speech and quotation marks.



Detective’s Report: The witness said she had heard a loud noise. She said she had looked outside and had seen a broken window. She said she didn’t see anyone nearby.



Your Task: Write the original dialogue.

◆ Activity 3: Detective Interview – Partner Activity

Work in pairs. One student is the detective, the other is the witness. The detective asks questions. The witness answers. Then the detective writes a short report using reported speech.

Questions to Ask:

What did you see? _____

What were you doing? _____

Did you hear anything? _____

Will you come to the station tomorrow? _____

Can you describe the person? _____

Teacher's Key

Activity 1: Detective's Notebook – What Did They Say?

Read the detective's notes. Then write what each person said using reported speech.

Detective's Notes: I spoke to three people at the scene.

The shopkeeper said, "I saw someone run past the window."

The customer said, "I was paying for my groceries."

The security guard said, "Don't touch anything!"

Your Task: Write what the detective reported.

Sample Answers:

The shopkeeper said that he had seen someone run past the window.

The customer said that she had been paying for her groceries.

The security guard told me not to touch anything.

Activity 2: Reconstruct the Dialogue

The detective wrote a report using reported speech. Rewrite it as a dialogue using direct speech and quotation marks.

Detective's Report: The witness said she had heard a loud noise. She said she had looked outside and had seen a broken window. She said she didn't see anyone nearby.

Sample Dialogue:

Witness: "I heard a loud noise." Witness: "I looked outside and saw a broken window." Witness: "I didn't see anyone nearby."

Activity 3: Detective Interview – Partner Activity

Work in pairs. One student is the detective, the other is the witness. The detective asks questions. The witness answers. Then the detective writes a short report using reported speech.

Questions to Ask:

What did you see?

The witness said she had seen a man in a red jacket.

What were you doing?

She said she had been walking her dog.

Did you hear anything?

She said she had heard a loud bang.

Will you come to the station tomorrow?

She said she would come to the station tomorrow.

Can you describe the person?

She said the person was tall and had a beard.