



REPORTED SPEECH

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Understanding Reported Speech

We use **reported speech** when we tell someone what another person said.

Direct speech

Maria said, "I am tired."

Reported speech

Maria said that she was tired.

We don't repeat the exact words. We report the meaning.

Common changes

Direct speech	Reported speech
am / is	was
are	were
have / has	had
will	would
can	could
do / does	did
today	that day
tomorrow	the next day
yesterday	the day before

1. Look at the difference

Example

Tom said: "I am busy."

Reported:

Tom said that he **was** busy.

Now complete the sentences.

- Anna said, "I am hungry."
Anna said that she _____ hungry.
- John said, "I have a new job."
John said that he _____ a new job.
- Sarah said, "I can help you."
Sarah said that she _____ help me.
- Mike said, "I will call you tomorrow."
Mike said that he _____ call me the next day.
- They said, "We are tired."
They said that they _____ tired.

2. Report what they said

Change the sentences into reported speech.

- Lisa said, "I like this restaurant." → Lisa said that _____.
- David said, "I am working today." → David said that _____.
- Maria said, "I have finished the work." → Maria said that _____.
- Peter said, "I will phone you tomorrow." → Peter said that _____.
- Jane said, "I can speak Spanish." → Jane said that _____.

3. What changed?

Look at the sentences from Exercise 2.

Write down **two things** that changed when you reported the sentences.

1. _____
2. _____

REAL ENGLISH BOX

In everyday conversation, we often use:

- He said that...
- She told me that...
- They said that...

Notice:

He **said that** he was tired.

but:

He **told me that** he was tired.

We normally say **tell + person**:

She told **me** the news.

Not:

✗ She told the news.

4. Say it naturally

Choose **said** or **told**.

1. Maria _____ me that she was busy.
2. John _____ that he was tired.
3. My friend _____ me that the restaurant was closed.
4. Sarah _____ us that she couldn't come.
5. They _____ that they were ready.

Teacher's Key

1. Look at the difference

- 1 was
- 2 had
- 3 could
- 4 would
- 5 were

2. Report what they said

- 1 Lisa said that she liked that restaurant.
- 2 David said that he was working that day.
- 3 Maria said that she had finished the work.
- 4 Peter said that he would phone me the next day.
- 5 Jane said that she could speak Spanish.

3. Answers vary. Possible answers: verb tense changed; pronouns changed; time expressions changed.

4. Say it naturally

- 1 told
- 2 said
- 3 told
- 4 told
- 5 said