

Reported Speech

Use

When you report someone's words you can do it in 2 ways:

Direct speech

1. You can use direct speech with quotation marks.

Example: **He said: "I work in a bank."**

Reported speech

2. You can use reported speech.

Example: **He said he worked in a bank.**

The tenses, word-order, pronouns may be different from those in the direct speech sentence.

	Direct speech	Reported speech
Ann said :	"I want ice-cream."	Ann said that she wanted ice-cream.

Simple Present

Simple present tense usually changes to the simple past in reported speech.

Questions -Reported Speech

"Do you **like** Jake?"

She asked me if/whether I **liked** Jake.

Questions with question words

“**Who** **is** your friend?”

She asked me **who** my friend **was**.

Commands - Reported Speech

“Sit down!” - The teacher told them **to sit** down.

“Drink a lot of tea!” - He told us **to drink** a lot of tea.

Negatives

Ann said that she wanted tea.

Ann said that she **didn't** want tea.

Tom said that he was ill.

Tom said that he **wasn't** ill.

Change of pronouns, date and place words

	Direct speech	Reported speech - Indirect speech
Change of pronouns	I We my your our me us	⇒ he/she ⇒ they ⇒ his/her ⇒ my ⇒ their ⇒ him/her ⇒ them
Change of place and time words	here today this morning yesterday tomorrow next week next month	⇒ there ⇒ that day ⇒ that morning ⇒ the day before ⇒ the next day ⇒ the following week ⇒ the following month