

Unit 12B
Grammar: Reported Speech(2) - Reporting Verbs

Reporting Verbs

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|---|---|
| <i>"If you are too busy, I can pick Sally up from school," said Dave.</i> | <i>Dave said (that) he could pick Sally up from school if I was too busy.</i> |
| <i>Dave is making an <u>OFFER</u></i> | <i>Dave <u>offered</u> to pick Sally up from school if I was too busy.</i> |

Now, as you can see, the above reporting verb **offer** has a different structure to the reported statement when using **said**:

say: reporting verb (+that) + clause — *a clause has meaning by itself (often it can be a full sentence)*

BUT

offer: reporting verb + infinitive + clause

Let's look at **some other common and useful reporting verbs** and their particular structures...

1. Reporting verbs with the same structure as **say**:

rep. verb + clause

*agree *promise *suggest complain *admit explain mention *claim

**these reporting verbs can also fit into other sentence structures.*

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|--|--|
| <i>“Why don’t you go cycling in the countryside tomorrow,” Ellen said.</i> | <i>Ellen suggested (that) I went cycling in the country side the following day.</i> |
| <i>“You must turn the power off first, and then remove the faulty power outlet,” the electrician said.</i> | <i>The electrician explained (that) I had to turn the power off first, and then remove the faulty power outlet.</i> |

2. Reporting verbs with the same structure as **tell**:

rep. verb + direct object + clause

*advise warn *tell convince assure persuade notify inform *remind

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|--|--|
| <i>“Don’t pull it again, or you’ll break it,” said the father to his son.</i> | <i>The father warned his son not to pull it again or he would break it.</i> |
| <i>“Don’t worry, I’m absolutely certain that I locked the front door,” said my wife.</i> | <i>My wife assured me (that) she had locked the front door.</i> |

**the direct object in some of these reported statements is changeable.*

3A. Reporting verbs with the infinitive:

rep. verb + infinitive

threaten demand offer propose refuse *ask *agree *claim *promise

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|---|---|
| <i>“I’ll punch you in the nose,” shouted Ben.</i> | <i>Ben threatened to punch me in the nose.</i> |
| <i>“I am the most experienced in the team,” she said.</i> | <i>She claimed to be the most experienced in the team.</i> |

3B. Reporting verbs with the infinitive:

rep. verb + direct object + infinitive

invite *tell beg forbid order *remind advise ask encourage warn(not to)

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|--|---|
| <i>“Please, please, please can you buy me some candy,” said the boy.</i> | <i>The boy begged ^{direct object} his mother ^{infinitive} to buy him some candy.</i> |
| <i>“If I were you, I wouldn’t invest in that company,” she said.</i> | <i>She advised/warned ^{direct object} me ^{infinitive} not to invest in that company.</i> |

**the direct object in some of these reported statements is changeable.*

4A. Reporting verbs followed by a gerund:

rep. verb + verb+*ing*

mention deny suggest recommend admit propose

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|---|---|
| <i>“It wasn’t me who stole the bag,” cried Billy.</i> | <i>Billy denied stealing the bag.</i> <i>*(Billy denied having stolen the bag.)</i> |
| <i>“It was me, I left the freezer door open,” she said.</i> | <i>She admitted leaving the freezer door open.</i> <i>*(She admitted having left the freezer door open.)</i> |

**these reported structures are correct, but are usually taught at C1 level.*

Take note:

All of the above listed reporting verbs can also fit into structure **1**:

rep. verb (+that) + clause

*Billy **denied** (that) he had stolen the bag.*

*She **admitted** (that) she had left the freezer door open.*

4B. Reporting verbs followed by a gerund:

rep. verb + preposition + verb+**ing**

*agree(to) apologise(for) insist(on) *argue(about)

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|--|---|
| <i>"I'm sorry for arriving so late this morning," said Naomi.</i> | <i>Naomi apologised for arriving so late that morning.</i> |
| <i>"Ok, I'll see another doctor before I make a final decision," she said.</i> | <i>She agreed to seeing another doctor before making a final decision.</i> |

4C. Reporting verbs followed by a gerund:

rep. verb + direct object + preposition + verb+**ing**

blame(for) congratulate(on) discourage(from) criticise(for)

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|--|--|
| <i>“Harry should never have made such a careless mistake,” said the teacher.</i> | <i>The teacher criticised Harry for making such a careless mistake.</i> |
| <i>“I heard you got engaged, congratulations!” Julia said.</i> | <i>Julia congratulated me on getting engaged.</i> |

**the direct object in some of these reported statements is changeable.*

Task 12.3

Use reporting verbs to transform the following sentences from direct speech into reported speech (there may be some alternative answers for some questions):

1. Greg: "You're right, I also think the water should have been warmer last week."

2. Miss Jones: "Ok everyone, stop writing, put your pens down, and close your books."

3. James: "I can help you transport this sofa next week."

4. He said, "There is no way I'm paying that bill. I'm not doing it."

5. Dave: "I didn't use that laptop yesterday."

6. Daisy: "It's completely your fault that the carpet is burnt Harry."

7. "Don't forget to take your medication while you are on holiday next week," said his mother.

8. "Stan, I don't think driving for fourteen hours continuously is a good idea." said Beryl.

Task 12.3

Use reporting verbs to transform the following sentences from direct speech into reported speech (there may be some alternative answers for some questions):

1. Greg: "You're right, I also think the water should have been warmer last week."

Greg agreed (with me) that the water should have been warmer the week before.

2. Miss Jones: "Ok everyone, stop writing, put your pens down, and close your books."

Miss Jones told everyone to stop writing, put their pens down, and close their books.

3. James: "I can help you transport this sofa next week."

James offered to help (me) transport that sofa the following week.

4. He said, "There is no way I'm paying that bill. I'm not doing it."

He refused to pay that bill.

5. Dave: "I didn't use that laptop yesterday."

Dave denied using that laptop the day before. (yesterday)

6. Daisy: "It's completely your fault that the carpet is burnt Harry."

Daisy blamed Harry for burning the carpet.

7. "Don't forget to take your medication while you are on holiday next week," said his mother.

His mother reminded him to take his medication while he was on holiday the following week.

8. "Stan, I don't think driving for fourteen hours continuously is a good idea." said Beryl.

Beryl discouraged Stan from driving for fourteen hours continuously.

Reported questions

1. If it is a **yes/no** question we are reporting, we use **if** or **whether**:

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|---|---|
| <i>"Are you going to buy that shirt?" asked the shop assistant.</i> | <i>The shop assistant asked if I was going to buy that shirt. (this shirt)</i> |
| <i>"Did you pass your French exam Jack?" Laura asked.</i> | <i>Laura asked whether Jack had passed his French exam.</i> |




Questions words:

- who
- when
- where
- why
- what
- which
- how

*They are sometimes called **-wh** words

***CAUTION:** Do/does/can/have etc. are **NOT question words!** (they are auxiliary verbs)

2. If the direct question contains a **question word**, we include that question word in the reported speech, **but we do not include the auxiliary verb** in the reported speech:

| Direct Speech | Reported Speech |
|--|--|
| <i>"Who is your favourite author?" asked Andrea.</i> | <i>Andrea asked who my favourite author was.</i> NOT <i>Andrea asked who was my favourite author.</i>  |
| <i>"Where are you going this summer?" he asked.</i> | <i>He asked (me) where I was going the following summer.</i> NOT <i>He asked me where was I going the following summer.</i>  |
| <i>"What did you buy at the store yesterday?" he asked me.</i> | <i>He asked me what I had bought at the store the day before.</i> NOT <i>He asked me what I did buy at the store the day before.</i>  |

Task 12.4

Transform the following questions from direct speech into reported speech (there may be some alternative answers for some questions):

1. Randy: "What is your friends name?"

2. "Why did you need another bicycle?" he asked.

3. "Where is your phone?" asked Fred.

4. Carol: "How many days off do you have next month?"

5. "When was that campaign released?" asked the CEO.

6. George: "Which car is yours?"

7. "How did you get such big discount on that wine last week?" asked Sofia.

8. "Are you going to finish your homework in time?" asked Paul.

Task 12.4

Transform the following questions from direct speech into reported speech (there may be some alternative answers for some questions):

1. Randy: "What is your friends name?"

Randy asked me what my friends name was.

2. "Why did you need another bicycle?" he asked.

He asked (me) why I had needed another bicycle..

3. "Where is your phone?" asked Fred.

Fred asked where my phone was..

4. Carol: "How many days off do you have next month?"

Carol asked (him) how many days off he had the following month. (he has the following month)

5. "When was that campaign released?" asked the CEO.

The CEO asked when that campaign had been released.

6. George: "Which car is yours?"

George asked me which car mine was.

7. "How did you get such big discount on that wine last week?" asked Sofia.

Sofia asked how I got such a big discount on this/that wine the week before.

8. "Are you going to finish your homework in time?" asked Paul.

Paul asked if/whether I was going to finish my homework in time.