

Reported speech (1) (He said that...)

Study this example situation:



Compare:
direct: Tom said 'I am feeling ill.'
reported: Tom said that he was feeling ill.

You want to tell somebody else what Tom said. There are two ways of doing this: You can repeat Tom's words (*direct speech*): Tom said 'I'm feeling ill.' Or you can use *reported speech*: Tom said that he was feeling ill.

In writing we use these to show *direct speech*.

When we use reported speech, the main verb of the sentence is usually past (Tom said that... / I told her that... etc.). The rest of the sentence is usually past too:

- Tom said that he was feeling ill.
 - I told her that I didn't have any money.
 - You can leave out that:
 - Tom said (that) he was feeling ill.
 - I told her (that) I didn't have any money.
- In general, the *present* form in direct speech changes to the *past* form in reported speech:
- am/is → was do/does → did
 are → were have/has → had
 want/like/know/go etc. → wanted/liked/knew/went etc.

Compare direct speech and reported speech:

You met Judy. Here are some of the things she said to you in *direct speech*:



'My parents are very well.'
 'I'm going to learn to drive.'
 'John has given up his job.'
 'I can't come to the party on Friday.'
 'I want to go away for a holiday but I don't know where to go.'
 'I'm going away for a few days. I'll phone you when I get back.'

Later you tell somebody what Judy said. You use *reported speech*:

- Judy said that her parents were very well.
- She said that she was going to learn to drive.
- She said that John had given up his job.
- She said that she couldn't come to the party on Friday.
- She said that she wanted to go away for a holiday but (she) didn't know where to go.
- She said that she was going away for a few days and would phone me when she got back.

The *past simple* (did/saw/knew etc.) can usually stay the same in reported speech, or you can change it to the *past perfect* (had done / had seen / had known etc.):

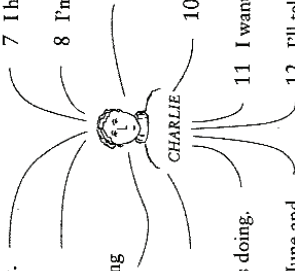
- direct* Tom said: 'I woke up feeling ill, so I didn't go to work.'
reported Tom said (that) he woke up feeling ill, so he didn't go to work. or Tom said (that) he had woken up feeling ill, so he hadn't gone to work.

Reported speech (2) → UNIT 47 Reported questions → UNIT 49B

EXERCISES

1 Yesterday you met a friend of yours, Charlie. Here are some of the things Charlie said to you:

- I'm living in London now.
- My father isn't very well.
- Sharon and Paul are getting married next month.
- Margaret has had a baby.
- I don't know what Fred is doing.
- I saw Helen at a party in June and she seemed fine.
- I haven't seen Diane recently.
- I'm not enjoying my job very much.
- You can come and stay at my flat if you are ever in London.
- My car was stolen a few weeks ago.
- I want to go on holiday but I can't afford it.
- I'll tell Ann I saw you.



2. Later that day you tell another friend what Charlie said. Use reported speech.

- Charlie said that he was living in London now.
- He said that
- He
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3. Somebody says something to you which is the opposite of what they said before. Write a suitable answer beginning I thought you said...

- A: That restaurant is expensive.
 B: Is it? ... I thought you said it was cheap.
- A: Ann is coming to the party tonight.
 B: Is she? I thought you said she
- A: Ann likes Paul.
 B: Does she? I thought
- A: I know lots of people.
 B: Do you? I thought you said you
- A: I'll be here next week.
 B: Will you?
- A: I'm going out this evening.
 B: Are you?
- A: I can speak a little French.
 B: Can you?
- A: I haven't been to the cinema for ages.
 B: Haven't you?

Reported speech (2)

It is not always necessary to change the verb when you use reported speech. If you report something and it is still true, you do not need to change the verb:

- **direct** Tom said 'New York is more lively than London.'
- **reported** Tom said that New York is more lively than London. (New York is *still* more lively. The situation hasn't changed.)
- **direct** Ann said 'I want to go to New York next year.'
- **reported** Ann said that she wants to go to New York next year. (Ann still wants to go to New York next year.)

Note that it is also correct to change the verb into the past:

- Tom said that New York **was** more lively than London.
- Ann said that she **wanted** to go to New York next year.

But you *must* use a past form when there is a difference between what was said and what is really true. Study this example situation:

You met Sonia a few days ago.
She said: 'Jim is ill.' (*direct speech*)

Later that day you see Jim. He is looking well and carrying a tennis racket.
You say:
'I didn't expect to see you, Jim. Sonia said you were ill.'
(*not* 'Sonia said you are ill', because clearly he is not ill.)

B

Say and tell

If you say *who* you are talking to, use tell:

- Sonia **told** me that you were ill. (*not* 'Sonia said me')
- What did you **tell** the police? (*not* 'say the police')

Otherwise use say:

- Sonia **said** that you were ill. (*not* 'Sonia told that...')
- What did you **say**?

But you can 'say something to somebody':

- Ann **said** goodbye to me and left. (*not* 'Ann said me goodbye')
- What did you **say** to the police?

TELL SOMEBODY

~~SAY SOMEBODY~~

C

Tell/ask somebody to do something

We also use the infinitive (to do / to stay etc.) in reported speech, especially with tell and ask (for orders and requests):

- **direct** 'Stay in bed for a few days,' the doctor said to me.
 - **reported** The doctor **told** me to stay in bed for a few days.
 - **direct** 'Don't shout,' I said to Jim.
 - **reported** I **told** Jim **not** to shout.
 - **direct** 'Please don't tell anybody what happened,' Ann said to me.
 - **reported** Ann **asked** me **not** to tell anybody what (had) happened.
- '...said to do something' is also possible:
- The doctor **said** to stay in bed for a few days. (*but not* 'The doctor said me...')

EXERCISES

Here are some things that Ann said to you:

- I've never been to the United States.
- I can't drive.
- I'm working tomorrow evening.
- Jane is a friend of mine.
- Jane is always short of money.
- I think New York is a fantastic place.
- Let's go out tomorrow evening.
- I've never spoken to Jane.
- I don't have any brothers or sisters.
- I don't like fish.
- Jane has a very well-paid job.

But later Ann says something different to you. What do you say?

- Dave works very hard. Let's have fish for dinner.
- I'm going to buy a car.
- Jane is always short of money. My sister lives in London.
- I think New York is a fantastic place.
- Let's go out tomorrow evening.
- I've never spoken to Jane.

But you said he was lazy...

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Complete the sentences with say or tell (in the correct form). Use only one word each time.

- Ann ...said... goodbye to me and left.
- us about your holiday. Did you have a nice time?
- Don't just stand there! something!
- I wonder where Sue is. She she would be here at 8 o'clock.
- Jack me that he was fed up with his job.
- The doctor that I should rest for at least a week.
- Don't anybody what I It's a secret just between us.
- 'Did she you what happened?' 'No, she didn't anything to me.'
- George couldn't help me. He me to ask Kate.
- George couldn't help me. He to ask Kate.

(Section C) The following sentences are direct speech:

Don't wait for me if I'm late.

Can you open your bag, please?

Please slow down!

Don't worry, Sue.

Will you marry me?

Mind your own business.

Could you repeat what you said, please?

Do you think you could give me a hand, Tom?

Now choose one of these to complete each sentence below. Use reported speech.

- Bill was taking a long time to get ready, so I ...~~told him to hurry up~~.....
- Sarah was driving too fast, so I asked
- Sue was very pessimistic about the situation. I told
- I couldn't move the piano alone, so I
- The customs officer looked at me suspiciously and
- I had difficulty understanding him, so I
- I didn't want to delay Ann, so I
- John was very much in love with Mary, so he
- He started asking me personal questions, so

Questions (1)

We usually make questions by changing the word order: we put the first auxiliary verb (AV) before the subject (S):

S + AV AV + S

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|---|------|------------|
| Tom | will | → | will | Tom? |
| you | have | → | have | you? |
| I | can | → | can | I? |
| the house | was | → | was | the house? |

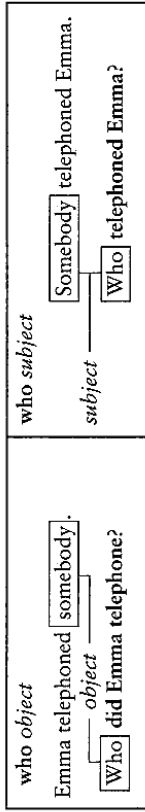
In present simple questions, we use do/does:

| | | | | |
|----------|--------|---|------|-----------------|
| you | live | → | do | you live? |
| the film | begins | → | does | the film begin? |

In past simple questions, we use did:

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------|---|-----|----------------------|
| you | sold | → | did | you sell? |
| the accident | happened | → | did | the accident happen? |

But do not use do/does/did in questions if who/what/which is the subject of the sentence. Compare:



In these examples, who/what/which is the subject:

- Who wants something to eat? (not 'Who does want')
- What happened to you last night? (not 'What did happen')
- Which bus goes to the city centre? (not 'Which bus does go')

Note the position of prepositions in questions beginning Who/What/Which/Where...?:

- Who do you want to speak to? (not 'Who do you want to speak to?')
- Which job has Jane applied for? (not 'Which job has Jane applied for?')

Negative questions (isn't it...? / didn't you...?)

We use negative questions especially to show surprise:

- Didn't you hear the bell? I rang it four times.
- Haven't we met somewhere before? 'Yes, I think we have.'
- Isn't it a beautiful day! (= It's a beautiful day, isn't it?)

Note the meaning of yes and no in answers to negative questions:

- Don't you want to go to the party? { Yes. (= Yes, I want to go) / No. (= No, I don't want to go)

Note the word order in negative questions beginning Why...?:

- Why don't we go out for a meal tonight? (not 'Why we don't...')
- Why wasn't Mary at work yesterday? (not 'Why Mary wasn't...')

EXERCISES

Ask Liz questions. (Look at her answers before you write the questions.)

- (where / from?) ...Where are you from?
- (where / live / now?) Where ...
- (married?) ...
- (how long / married?) ...
- (children?) ...
- (how old / they?) ...
- (what / husband / do?) ...
- (he / enjoy his job?) ...
- (arrest anyone yesterday?) ...
- (how often / go / on holiday?) ...
- (where / next year?) ...

From London originally.
In Manchester.
Yes.
12 years.
Yes, three boys.
4, 7 and 9.
He's a policeman.
Yes, very much.
I don't know.
Usually once a year.
We don't know yet.



LIZ

Make questions with who or what.

- Someone hit me.
I hit somebody.
- Someone gave me the key.
Something happened.
- Diane told me something.
Someone lives in that house.
- This book belongs to somebody.
I fell over something.
- Someone fell on the floor.
This word means something.
- This word means something.
I'm worried about something.

Who hit you?
Who did you hit?
Who
What

Put the words in brackets in the correct order. All the sentences are questions.

- (when / was / built / this house) ...When was this house built?
- (how / cheese / is / made) ...
- (when / invented / the computer / was) ...
- (why / Sue / working / isn't / today) ...
- (what time / coming / your friends / are) ...
- (why / was / cancelled / the concert) ...
- (where / your mother / was / born) ...
- (why / you / to the party / didn't / come) ...
- (how / the accident / did / happen) ...
- (why / this machine / doesn't / work) ...

Write negative questions from the words in brackets. In each situation you are surprised.

- A: We won't see Ann this evening.
B: Why not? (she / not / come / to the party) ...Isn't she coming to the party?
- A: I hope we don't meet Brian tonight.
B: Why? (you / not / like / him?) ...
- A: Don't go and see that film.
B: Why not? (it / not / good) ...
- A: I'll have to borrow some money.
B: Why? (you / not / have / any?) ...

Questions (2) (Do you know where...? / She asked me where...)

When we ask for information, we often say **Do you know...? / Could you tell me...?** etc. If you begin a question like this, the word order is different from a simple question.
Compare:

Where has Tom gone? (simple question)
but Do you know where Tom has gone? (not 'Do you know where has Tom gone?')
When the question (Where has Tom gone?) is part of a longer sentence (Do you know...? / I don't know... / Can you tell me...? etc.), it loses the normal question word order.
Compare:

- What time is it? **but** Do you know what time it is?
- Who is that woman? I don't know who that woman is.
- Where can I find Linda? Can you tell me where I can find Linda?
- How much will it cost? Have you any idea how much it will cost?

Be careful with **do/does/did** questions:

- What time does the film begin? **but** Do you know what time the film begins? (not 'Do you know what time does...')
Please explain what you mean.
I wonder why Ann left early.
- What do you mean?
- Why did Ann leave early?

Use **if** or **whether** where there is no other question word (what, why etc.):


- Did anybody see you? **but** Do you know if (or whether) anybody saw you?

The same changes in word order happen in **reported** questions:


- direct** The police officer said to us, 'Where **are you going**?'
reported The police officer asked us where **we were going**.
- direct** Clare said, 'What time **do the banks close**?'
reported Clare wanted to know what time **the banks closed**.

In reported questions, the verb usually changes to the past (were, closed). See Unit 46.

Study these examples. You had an interview for a job and these were some of the questions the interviewer asked you:



INTERVIEWER



YOU

How old are you?

What do you do in your spare time?

Why did you apply for the job?

How long have you been working in your present job?

Have you got a driving licence?

Can you speak any foreign languages?

Later you tell a friend what the interviewer asked you. You use **reported** speech:

- She asked (me) how old I was.
- She wanted to know what I did in my spare time.
- She asked (me) how long I had been working in my present job.
- She asked (me) why I had applied for the job. (or ...why I applied)
- She wanted to know whether (or if) I could speak any foreign languages.
- She asked whether (or if) I had a driving licence. (or ...I had got...)

EXERCISES

Make a new sentence from the question in brackets.

- 1 (Where has Tom gone?) Do you know ...where Tom has gone?
- 2 (Where is the post office?) Could you tell me where ...
- 3 (What's the time?) I wonder ...
- 4 (What does this word mean?) I want to know ...
- 5 (What time did they leave?) Do you know ...
- 6 (Is Sue going out tonight?) I don't know ...
- 7 (Where does Carol live?) Have you any idea ...
- 8 (Where did I park the car?) I can't remember ...
- 9 (Is there a bank near here?) Can you tell me ...
- 10 (What do you want?) Tell me ...
- 11 (Why didn't Kay come to the party?) I don't know ...
- 12 (Do you have to pay to park here?) Do you know ...
- 13 (Who is that woman?) I've no idea ...
- 14 (Did Ann receive my letter?) Do you know ...
- 15 (How far is it to the airport?) Can you tell me ...


02 You are making a phone call. You want to speak to Sue but she isn't there. Somebody else answers the phone. You want to know three things:

- (1) Where has she gone? (2) When will she be back? and (3) Did she go out alone?


Complete the conversation:

- A: Do you know where(1)?
B: Sorry, I've got no idea.
A: Never mind. I don't suppose you know(2).
B: No, I'm afraid not.
A: One more thing. Do you happen to know(3)?
B: I'm afraid I didn't see her go out.
A: OK. Well, thank you anyway. Goodbye.

03 You have been away for a while and have just come back to your home town. You meet Gerry, a friend of yours. He asks you a lot of questions:



GERRY



How are you?

Where are you living?

Why did you come back?

Where have you been?

Are you glad to be back?

How long have you been back?

Do you have any plans to go away again?

What are you doing now?

Can you lend me some money?

Now you tell another friend what Gerry asked you. Use **reported** speech.

- 1 ... He asked me how I was...
- 2 He asked me
- 3 He
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

Auxiliary verbs (have/do/can etc.) I think so / I hope so etc.

There are two verbs in each of these sentences:

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------|----------------|
| I | have | lost | my keys. |
| She | can't | come | to the party. |
| The hotel | was | built | ten years ago. |
| Where | do you | live? | |

In these examples **have/can't/was/do** are *auxiliary* (= helping) verbs.

You can use an auxiliary verb (without the rest of the sentence) when you don't want to repeat something:

- 'Have you locked the door?' 'Yes, I have.' (= I have *locked the door*)
 - 'George wasn't working but Janet was.' (= Janet was *working*)
 - 'She could lend me the money but she won't.' (= she won't *lend me the money*)
 - 'Are you angry with me?' 'Of course I'm not.' (= I'm not *angry*)
- Use **do/does/did** for the present and past simple:
- 'Do you like onions?' 'Yes, I do.' (= I *like onions*)
 - 'Does Mark smoke?' 'He **did** but he **doesn't** any more.'

We use **have you? / isn't she? / do they?** etc. to show polite interest in what somebody has said:

- 'I've just met Simon.' 'Oh, **have you?** How is he?'
- 'Liz isn't very well today.' 'Oh, **isn't she?** What's wrong with her?'
- 'It rained every day during our holiday.' '**Did it?** What a pity!'

Sometimes we use these 'short questions' to show surprise:

- 'Jim and Nora are getting married.' 'Are they? Really?'

We use auxiliary verbs with **so** and **neither**:

- 'I'm feeling tired.' 'So **am I.**' (= I'm feeling tired too)
- 'I never read newspapers.' 'Neither **do I.**' (= I never read newspapers either)
- Sue hasn't got a car and **neither** has Martin.

Note the word order after **so** and **neither** (*verb* before *subject*):

- I passed the exam and **so did Tom.** (*not* 'so Tom did')

You can use **nor** instead of **neither**:

- 'I can't remember his name.' 'Nor **can I.**' or 'Neither can I.'

You can also use '...**not...either**':

- 'I haven't got any money.' 'Neither **have I.**' or 'Nor **have I.**' or 'I haven't **either.**'

I think so / I hope so etc.

After some verbs you can use **so** when you don't want to repeat something:

- 'Are those people English?' 'I **think so.**' (= I think *they are English*)
- 'Will you be at home tomorrow morning?' 'I **expect so.**' (= I expect *I'll be at home...*)
- 'Do you think Kate has been invited to the party?' 'I **suppose so.**'

You can also say **I hope so, I guess so** and **I'm afraid so.**

The usual negative forms are:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| I think so / I expect so | → | I don't think so / I don't expect so |
| I hope so / I'm afraid so / I guess so | → | I hope not / I'm afraid not / I guess not |
| I suppose so | → | I don't suppose so or I suppose not |
- 'Is that woman American?' 'I think so. / I don't think so.'
 - 'Do you think it's going to rain?' 'I hope so. / I hope not.' (*not* 'I don't hope so')