

## Reported speech 1 (he said that ...)

## A Study this example situation:



PAUL

You saw Paul yesterday and you want to tell somebody what he said.

There are two ways of doing this:

You can repeat Paul's words (direct speech):

Paul said, '**I'm feeling ill.**'

Or you can use reported speech:

Paul said **that he was feeling ill.**

Compare:

direct Paul said, '**I am** feeling ill.'

reported Paul said that **he was** feeling ill.

In writing we use these quotation marks to show direct speech.

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

- ☐ Paul **said** that he **was feeling** ill.
- ☐ I **told** Lisa that I **didn't have** any money.

You can leave out **that**. So you can say:

- ☐ Paul **said that** he was feeling ill. or Paul **said** he was feeling ill.

In general, the *present* in direct speech changes to the *past* in reported speech:

am/is → <b>was</b>	do/does → <b>did</b>	will → <b>would</b>
are → <b>were</b>	have/has → <b>had</b>	can → <b>could</b>
want/like/know/go etc. → <b>wanted/liked/knew/went</b> etc.		

See also Unit 48A.

Compare direct and reported speech:

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

**I've** lost my phone.  
**I want** to buy a car.  
 I **can't** come to the party on Friday.  
 I **don't** have much free time.  
 My parents **are** fine.  
 I'm going away for a few days.  
 I'll phone you when I **get** back.



ANNA

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

- ☐ Anna said that she **had** lost her phone.
- ☐ She said that she **wanted** to buy a car.
- ☐ She said that she **couldn't** come to the party on Friday.
- ☐ She said that she **didn't** have much free time.
- ☐ She said that her parents **were** fine.
- ☐ She said that she **was** going away for a few days and **would** phone me when she **got** back.

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

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

## Exercises

- 47.1** You talked to some friends of yours (Paul, Tom, Anna etc.). Read what they said on the left (direct speech). Later (the same day) you tell another friend what they said (reported speech). Complete the sentences.

	direct speech	reported speech
	1 YOU: Are you going to work today, Paul? PAUL: No, I'm feeling ill.	Paul didn't go to work today. He said <u>he was feeling</u> ill.
	2 YOU: Shall we walk to the station? TOM: No, it's too far. Let's get a taxi.	I wanted to walk to the station, but Tom said ..... far.
	3 YOU: Have you been invited to the party? ANNA: Yes, but I don't want to go.	Anna has been invited to the party but she told me ..... to go.
	4 YOU: When are you going away, Dan? DAN: I'll let you know next week.	I asked Dan about his travel plans. He said ..... next week.
	5 YOU: Do you ever see Rachel these days? BEN: I haven't seen her for a while.	I asked Ben about Rachel, but he told me ..... for a while.
	6 YOU: Where can I borrow a guitar? KATE: You can borrow mine.	I needed to borrow a guitar and Kate said .....
	7 YOU: How's your job, Sue? SUE: I'm not enjoying it very much.	I asked Sue about her job. She said ..... very much.
	8 YOU: Do you still have your car? JAMES: No, I sold it a few months ago.	I asked James about his car. He told me ..... a few months ago.
	9 YOU: What's the name of the cafe we went to? SARAH: I don't know.	I asked Sarah the name of the cafe we went to but she said .....
	10 YOU: How many students are there in your class, Amy? AMY: Twenty.	I asked Amy about her school and she told me ..... class.

- 47.2** Somebody says something to you which is not what you expected. Use your own ideas to complete your answers.

- A: It's quite a long way from the hotel to the city centre.  
B: Is it? The man on the reception desk said it was only five minutes' walk.
- A: Sue is coming to the party tonight.  
B: Is she? I saw her a few days ago and she said she .....
- A: Sarah gets on fine with Paul.  
B: Does she? Last week you said ..... each other.
- A: Joe knows lots of people.  
B: That's not what he told me. He said ..... anyone.
- A: Jane will be here next week.  
B: Oh, really? When I spoke to her, she said ..... away.
- A: I'm going out tonight.  
B: Are you? I thought you said ..... at home.
- A: I speak French quite well.  
B: Do you? But earlier you said ..... any other languages.
- A: I haven't seen Ben recently.  
B: That's strange. He told me ..... last weekend.