

1º de Bachillerato - REPORTED SPEECH

1.- WHAT IS REPORTED SPEECH?

In direct speech we repeat exactly what someone said:

He said 'I don't like football'

In reported speech, however, we tell what someone said without repeating his exact words.

He said (that) he didn't like football.

2.- TENSES IN REPORTED SPEECH

Tenses in reported speech are "more past" (because we're not talking at the same time as the speaker was).

DIRECT SPEECH

Present simple

'I like peaches.'

Present progressive

'Is it raining?'

Past simple

'I didn't recognize you.'

Present perfect

'You've annoyed the dog.'

Past progressive

'I was joking about the price.'

Past perfect

'I hadn't seen her before that day.'

Shall/will

'We'll be late.'

Can, may

'I can swim.'

'It may rain.'

Would, could, might, ought, should

'You could be right.'

'That should be interesting.'

Must

'I must go.'

REPORTED SPEECH

Past simple

He said he liked peaches.

Past progressive

He asked if it was raining.

Past perfect

She explained that she hadn't recognized me.

Past perfect

I told her she'd annoyed the dog.

Past progressive or past perfect progressive

He said he was joking (or: had been joking) about the price.

Past perfect

'You said you hadn't seen her before that day.'

Should/would

'I was afraid we'd be late'

Could, might

She thought she could swim.

They said it might rain.

Would, could, might, ought, should

I felt he could be right.

She said it should be interesting.

Must or Had to

He said he must go. (or: ...or had to go)

Note that we may have **shall** or **should** in direct speech, and **would** in reported speech (because of the difference of person).

'I should be delighted to come.' He said he would be delighted to come.

3.- OTHER CHANGES IN REPORTED SPEECH

- **this = that, the** *I found this watch on a train'*

- **these = those, the** *He said that he had found that/the watch on a train.*

- **Pronouns and possessive adjectives** change from first or second person to third person, except when the speaker is reporting his own words.

He said. I've forgotten the combination of my safe'

He said that he had forgotten the combination of his safe.

but *I said, 'I like my new house' = I said that I liked my new house*

- **Adverbs and adverbial phrases of time** change as follows:

DIRECT SPEECH

today
yesterday
the day before yesterday
tomorrow
the day after tomorrow
next week/year etc.
last month/year etc.
a year etc. ago

REPORTED SPEECH

that day
the day before
two days before
the next day, the following day
in two days' time
the following week/year etc.
the previous month, year, etc.
a year before/ the previous year

- **Here** normally becomes **there** (however, when it isn't clear from the context what place is meant, it should be explained).

We met at the bridge and he said, 'I'll be here again tomorrow'

We met at the bridge and he said that he would be there again the following day.

but *She said, 'You can sit here, Tom'*

She told Tom that he could sit beside her on the rug etc.

4. STATEMENTS

- With **reported statements** we normally use the conjunction **that**, which can be omitted.

He said, 'I'm going home' = He said (that) he was going home.

- We also normally use **say** and **tell** as reporting verbs. Remember that **tell** must be followed by the person addressed or a personal pronoun in object form.

'I have forgotten my keys at home', he said.

He said (to me) that he had forgotten his keys at home.

or *He told me that he had forgotten his keys at home.*

5. QUESTIONS

- They don't have the same word-order (auxiliary verb before subject) as direct questions have. **Do** is not used. Questions marks are not used either.

The nurse asked how I felt.

I wondered why my mother was driving so fast.

Mary asked if I needed another blanket.

He wanted to know if he would be in Edinburgh in time for the Festival.

- **Say** can introduce a direct question, but not a reported question.

She said, 'Do you want me to help you?'

She asked if I wanted her to help me.

- When we have no interrogative words (in questions which should be answered yes or no) **if** or **whether** are used to introduce reported questions.

The bus driver asked if/whether I wanted the town centre.

Whether is more formal. It is also used when there's a choice.

He asked me whether I wanted to stay or leave.

6. COMMANDS, REQUESTS, ADVICE, ETC.

They're all often reported by **reporting verb + object pronoun + infinitive**.

Commands: *'Be back before ten', my mother said.*

My mother told (or ordered) me to be back before ten.

Requests: *He said, 'Can you open the window, please?' = He asked me to open the window.*

Remember that if we ask for an object we don't need infinitives.
'Can you lend me a pen?' he said.
He asked me for a pen.

Offers: *'Shall I bring you some tea?'*
He offered to bring me some tea.

Invitations: *'Would you like to sit down?'*
My hostess invited me to sit down.

Advice: *My friend said, 'if you travel abroad you should take traveller cheques with you'*
My friend advised me to take traveller cheques with me if I travelled abroad.

Warnings: *'Be careful of pickpockets', the policeman said to us.*
The policeman warned us to be careful of pickpockets.

Pleas: *'Please, please don't take any risks,' said his wife.*
His wife begged/implored him not to take any risks.

Encouragement: *'Go on, apply for the job,' said Jack.*
Jack urged/encouraged me to apply for the job.

Reminders: *'Don't forget to order the wine,' said Mrs Pitt*
Mrs Pitt reminded her husband to order the wine.

7. OTHER REPORTING VERBS

ACCEPT.- 'O.K. I'll do the job,' he said. = He accepted to do the job
ACCUSE.- 'You are a thief,' said the manager to him = The manager accused him of being a thief.
ADMIT.- 'Yes, I stole the money,' he said. = He admitted having stolen the money / that he had stolen...
AGREE.- 'You can use my flat while I'm away,' he said. = He agreed to let us use his flat while he was away.
APOLOGIZE.- 'Sorry, I', late,' he said. = He apologized for being late.
CALL.- 'Ann, come.' = He called Ann.
'You are a liar, Henry,' he said. = He called Henry a liar.
COMPLAIN.- 'The price is too high,' he said. = He complained about the price. / He complained that the price was too high.
CONGRATULATE.- 'Congratulations on your success!' he said to me. = He congratulated me on my success.
DENY.- 'No, I didn't see her yesterday,' he said. = He denied having seen her the day before / that he had seen...
EXCLAIM.- 'Ugh, there's a fly in my soup!' he said. = He exclaimed with disgust that there was a fly in his soup.
EXPLAIN.- 'In the USA, the speed limit is 55 m.p.h..' = He explained that in the USA the speed limit is 55 m.p.h.
GIVE.- 'Here's your money, John,' he said. = He gave John

his money.
INTRODUCE.- 'Please, Peter, meet Tom.' = He introduced Peter to Tom.
POINT OUT.- 'There are a few mistakes in your essay,' the teacher said. = The teacher pointed out that there were a few mistakes in my essay.
PROMISE.- 'I will never smoke again,' he said. = He promised never to smoke again.
PROTEST.- 'I think the Government's work policy is unfair,' the union leader said. = The union leader protested about (against) the Government's work policy.
'It's long past bedtime, child,' said the father. 'Oh, please daddy,' said the child. = The child protested when his father told him to go to bed.
REFUSE.- 'I won't lend you any more money,' he said. = He refused to lend me any more money.
SUGGEST.- 'Why don't we take a holiday in the mountains?' he said. = He suggested taking a holiday in the mountains.
THANK.- 'Thank you for this splendid meal,' he said to his hostess. = He thanked his hostess for the meal.
THREATEN.- 'If you say another word I will punish you,' he said. He threatened his son to punish him if he said another word.

WISH.- 'I wish you good luck,' he said to me. = He wished me good luck

REPORTED SPEECH: EXERCISES

1.- INDIRECT SPEECH: STATEMENTS

1. 'I have something to show you,' I said to her.
2. 'Nothing grows in my garden. It never gets any sun,' she said.
3. 'I'm going away tomorrow, mother,' he said.
4. 'I've been in London for a month but so far I haven't had time to visit the Tower,' said Rupert.
5. 'It isn't so foggy today as it was yesterday,' I remarked.
6. 'The new underpass is being officially opened the day after tomorrow,' said the BBC announcer.
7. 'We have moved into our new flat. We don't like it nearly so much as our last one,' said my aunt.
8. 'We have a lift but very often it doesn't work,' they said.
9. 'From one of the windows of my flat I can see the Eiffel Tower,' he said.
10. 'I've no idea what the time is but I'll dial 8081 and find out,' said his daughter.
11. He said, 'My wife has just been made a judge.'
12. 'I'll come with you as soon as I am ready,' she replied.
13. 'I have a German lesson this afternoon and I haven't done my homework yet,' said the small boy.
14. 'If you let the iron get too hot you will scorch your clothes,' I warned her.
15. 'You haven't given me quite enough. The bill is for £13,' he pointed out.
16. 'Ann said, 'Englishmen make good husbands because they are always willing to help in the house.'
17. 'I'll see Mary on Sunday,' she said.
18. 'I met her about three months ago,' he said.
19. 'If I press my ear against the wall, I can hear what the people in the next flat are saying,' he said.
20. The advertisement said, 'If you answer the questions correctly you may win £100.'
21. 'I'll sit up till she comes in, but I hope she won't be late,' he said.
22. 'Pete and Sue are getting married tomorrow,' she said.
23. 'We'll see her next summer,' they said.
24. 'Stephen's bringing some records to the party tonight,' she said.
25. 'I must go out to post a letter,' she said.
26. 'I'm going fishing with mother this afternoon,' said the small boy, 'and we are going into the garden now to dig for worms.'
27. Motoring report: The new Rolls Royce runs so quietly that all you can hear is the ticking of the clock.
Managing director of the Rolls Royce company: In that case we'll have to do something about the clock.
28. 'I've missed my train,' said Bill. 'Now I'll be late for work and my boss will be furious.'
29. 'I couldn't get into the house because I had lost my key, so I had to break a window,' he said.
30. 'They should put traffic lights here, otherwise there'll be more accidents,' she said.
31. 'I found an old Roman coin in the garden yesterday,' he said, 'and I'm going to take it to the museum this afternoon.'
32. 'I can drive,' she said.
33. 'You may go climbing in the Alps next summer,' he said.
34. 'I shall ring you up as soon as I arrive,' he said to me.
35. 'If you lend me the chainsaw,' said Mary, 'I'll bring it back the day after tomorrow.'

36. He said, 'If you called on me tomorrow, I could see you for half an hour.'
37. He said, 'If I had any money, I'd buy you a drink.'

2.- INDIRECT SPEECH: SAY OR TELL?

Use the correct form of SAY and TELL in these sentences.

1. She me she didn't agree.
2. He 'Have we met before?'
3. I them I wasn't happy with their work.
4. She me a story about her parents.
5. He 'Are you feeling OK?'
6. She smiled, and to me, 'I'm very pleased to meet you.'
7. I didn't hear: what did she?
8. Could you me the time, please?
9. They me they were going to a meeting.
10. I the policeman my address.
11. I I wanted to buy a magazine.
12. He he wasn't interested in politics.
13. Could you me your name again, please?
14. Do you think he's the truth?
15. Would you them to come early tomorrow?
16. If he that again there'll be trouble.
17. I them it was dangerous to swim here.
18. Did you anything to him about your problems at work?
19. me what happened.
20. I think he was lies.

3.- REPORTED SPEECH: QUESTIONS.

You have come as a new student to a British college and the other students are asking you questions. Imagine that you report these questions later to an English friend.

1. 'What country do you come from?' said Bill.
2. 'How long have you been here?' said Ann.
3. 'Are you working as well as studying?' asked Peter.
4. 'Have you got a work permit?' Bill wanted to know.
5. 'What are you going to study?' asked Ann.
6. 'Have you enrolled for more than one class?' said Peter.
7. 'Do you want to buy any second-hand books?' said Bill.
8. 'Have you seen the library?' asked Ann.
9. 'Do you play rugby?' said Peter.
10. 'Will you have time to play regularly?' he went on.
11. 'Did you play for your school team?' said Bill.
12. 'Are you interested in acting?' asked Ann.
13. 'Would you like to join our Drama Group?' she said.
14. 'What do you think of the canteen coffee?' asked Peter.

4.- REPORTED SPEECH: QUESTIONS.

1. 'Where has John left his bicycle?' I said.
2. 'When did David buy his new car?' Peter wanted to know.
3. 'Where shall we meet on Saturday?' John asked Mary.
4. 'Do you like Marlon Brando?' she said.
5. 'What have you bought for Mary's birthday?' I asked mother.
6. 'Whom did you see at the cinema last night?' she wanted

to know.

7. 'Are you enjoying yourself?' he asked.
8. 'Whose book has Betty borrowed?' Father said.
9. 'Why haven't you written to us for such a long time?' they asked Mary.
10. 'Does your father work here?' she asked.
11. 'Which of the two boys is the elder son?' said the lawyer.
12. 'Do you live near your family?' he asked.
13. 'When will you pay back the money father lent you?' asked Peter.
14. 'Do you want to eat now or do you prefer to wait for Henry?' she asked me.
15. 'Have you met Danny before?' he asked.
16. 'Are you hungry?' he asked.
17. 'What are you going to prepare for dinner?' he asked the cook.
18. 'Did you borrow my dictionary?' he asked.
19. 'Is she going to get married now or wait?' she asked.
20. 'Have your exams finished?' he asked.
21. 'Whose telephone number are you looking up?' my secretary asked.
22. 'Do you know who broke the window?' he asked.
23. 'Did you lend them your camera?' he asked.
24. 'Will you be able to come or not?' he asked me.
25. 'Which of these films have you seen?' my friend said.
26. 'Why don't you get up earlier in the mornings?' the manager wanted to know.
27. 'How much should we pay for a month in Spain?' they wondered.
28. 'Whose money is that on the table?' Peter wanted to know.
29. 'What happened to Mr Budd?' said one of the men.
30. 'Can you get coffee on the train?' asked my aunt.

5.- INDIRECT SPEECH: COMMANDS, REQUESTS, ADVICE EXPRESSED BY OBJECT + INFINITIVE.

1. 'Switch off the TV,' he said to her.
2. 'Could you shut the door, Tom?' she said.
3. 'Would you mind lending me your pen for a moment?' I said to Mary.
4. 'Don't watch late-night horror movies,' I warned them.
5. 'Don't believe everything you hear,' he warned me.
6. 'Don't hurry,' I said.
7. 'You shouldn't touch that switch, Mary,' I said.
8. 'Open the safe!' the raiders ordered the bank clerk.
9. 'Remember to write to your mother,' I said to them.
10. 'Please, please, don't tell my father,' she said to me.
11. 'Why don't you go by train? It's much less tiring than driving,' I said.
12. 'Don't go near the water, children,' she said.
13. 'Would you like to come in?' he said to us.
14. 'Would you take the children to school for me?' she said to her husband.
15. 'Would you move your car, please?', she said.
16. 'Run!' the general ordered the soldiers.
17. 'Don't forget your sandwiches,' said his mother.
18. 'Please don't drink any more,' said his wife. 'Don't forget that we have to drive home.'
19. 'You oughtn't to spend so much money on unimportant things,' he said to his wife.
20. 'You'd better begin your homework now,' I told him.
21. 'Go and get me a paper, and come straight back,' he said to me.
22. 'Will you help me, please?' she said. 'I can't reach the top shelf.'
23. 'If I were you I'd try to get a room on the top floor,' he said.

24. 'Could you sew on this button for me?' Tom asked Ann.
25. 'Please, daddy, let me stay and see the end of the film,' the little girl said.

6) Reported speech: mixed types.

Put the following into indirect speech, avoiding as far as possible the verbs **say, ask and tell** and choosing instead from the following: **accept, accuse, admit, advise, agree, apologize, assure, beg, call (=summon), call (+ noun/pronoun + noun), complain, congratulate, deny, exclaim, explain, give, hope, insist, introduce, invite, offer, point out, promise, protest, refuse, remark, remind, suggest, thank, threaten, warn, wish.**

- 1.- He said, 'don't walk on the ice; it isn't safe.'
- 2.- 'Miss Brown, this is Miss White. Miss White, Miss Brown,' he said.
- 3.- 'Here are the car keys. You'd better wait in the car,' he said to her.
- 4.- 'Please, please, don't tell anyone,' she said.
- 5.- 'Would you like my torch?' I said holding it out.
- 6.- Tom: 'I'll pay. Ann: Oh, no, you mustn't! Tom: I insist on paying!'
- 7.- 'Come in and look round. There's no obligation to buy,' said the shopkeeper.
- 8.- 'If you don't pay the ransom, we'll kill the boy,' said the kidnappers.
- 9.- 'I won't answer any questions,' said the arrested man.
- 10.- 'He expects a lot of work for very little money,' complained one of the typists. 'Yes, he does,' agreed the other.
- 11.- 'I wish it would rain,' she said.
- 12.- 'You pressed the wrong button,' said the mechanic. 'Don't do it again. You might have a nasty accident.'
- 13.- 'Your weight's gone up a lot!' I exclaimed. 'I'm afraid it has,' she said sadly.
- 14.- 'I hope you'll have a good journey,' he said. 'Don't forget to send a card when you arrive.'
- 15.- 'Hurrah! I've passed the first exam!' he exclaimed. 'Congratulations!' I said, 'and good luck with the second.'
- 16.- 'All right, I'll wait a week,' she said. (Omit all right)
- 17.- 'Many happy returns of your birthday!' we said.
- 18.- 'Your door is the shabbiest in the street,' said the neighbour. 'It is,' I said.
- 19.- 'Cigarette?' - 'Thanks,' I said.
- 20.- 'I'll sell the TV set if you keep quarrelling about the programme,' said the mother. 'No, don't do that! We won't quarrel any more,' said the children.
- 21.- 'I'll give you £500 to keep your mouth shut,' he said to me.
- 22.- 'I'll wait for you, I promise,' he said to me.
- 23.- 'I'm sorry I'm late,' she said. 'The bus broke down.'
- 24.- 'You've been leaking information to the Press!', said his colleagues. 'No, I haven't,' he said. 'Liar!' said Tom.
- 25.- 'I'll drop you from the team if you don't train harder,' said the captain.
- 26.- 'If the boys do anything clever, you call them your sons,' complained his wife. 'But if they do anything stupid, you call them mine.'
- 27.- 'Let's have a rest,' said Tom. 'Yes, let's,' said Ann.
- 28.- 'Ugh! There's a slug in my lettuce. Waiter!' he cried.