REPORTED SPEECH

Topics

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DEFINITION

- When we are telling someone what another person said or thought, but do not use their exact words.

For example

Mark said that he wanted to live in London.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Quotation marks are not used in reported speech.
- Verb tenses, pronouns and some “time” and “place” words may change because the time, place and speaker may be different.

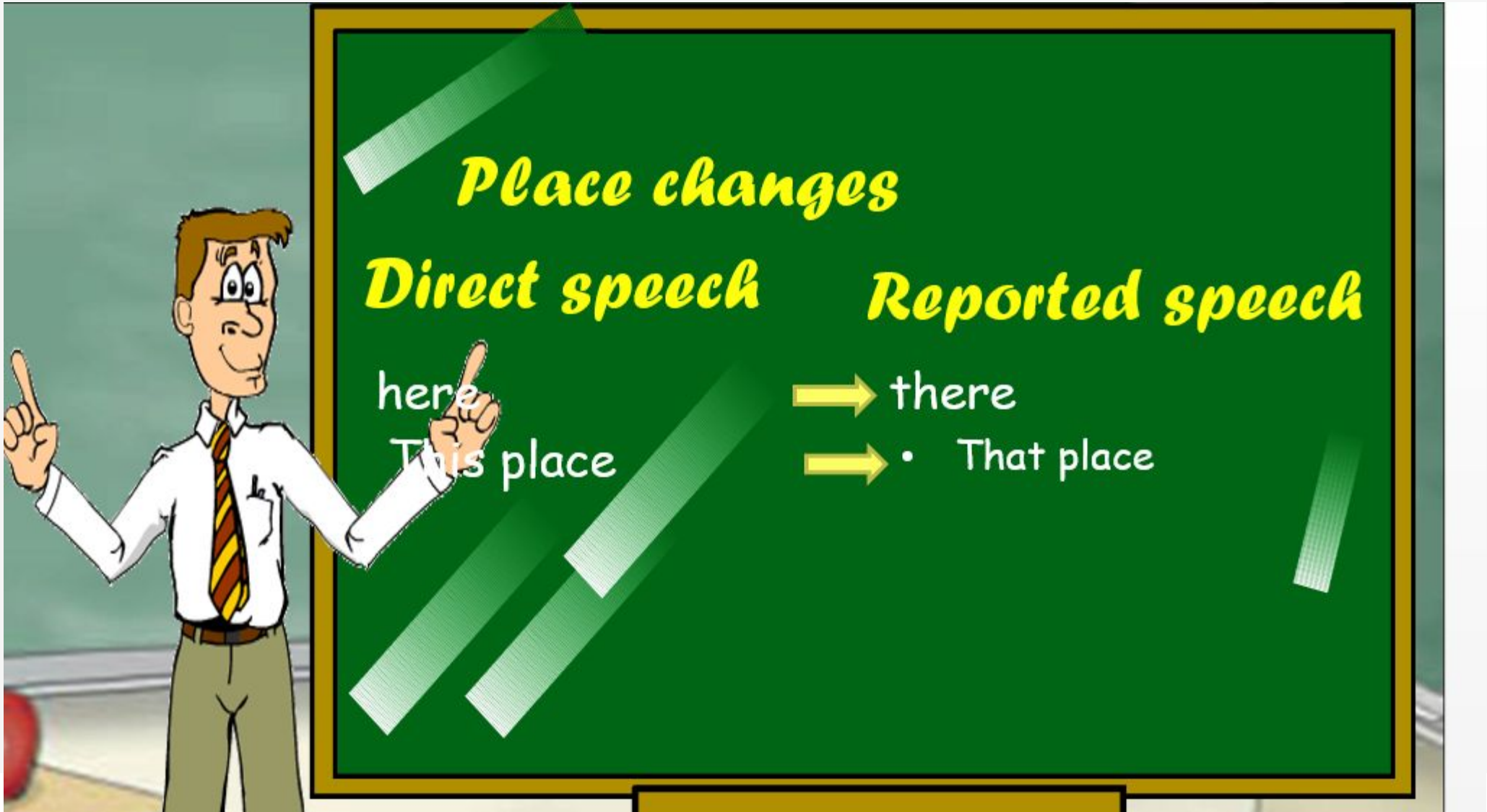
•When we report a statement, we use reported verbs such as say, tell, explain, inform, answer, decide, etc. often followed by that.

- In reported –wh questions, we use the wh- word + the subject + the verb.
- We do not use the interrogative form of the verb – do, does or did.
- We do not use the interrogative form of the verb – do, does or did.
- When we report requests, orders, advice or warnings we use verbs such as advice, ask, beg, tell, order, etc, followed by an infinitive.

Verb Tense Change

Direct speech		Reported speech
PRESENT SIMPLE	→	PAST SIMPLE
PAST SIMPLE	→	PAST PERFECT

PLACE CHANGES



TIME CHANGES

POSSESIVE PRONOUN CHANGES

EXAMPLES

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Tom says, «I am very tired»	Tom said that he was very tired.
She said «Jane is ill»	She said that Jane was ill.
Ali said «I worked hard»	Ali said he had worked hard.
Jane said « I was a nurse»	Jane said she had been a nurse.

REPORTING QUESTIONS

Tenses, pronouns (**I, we, me**, etc.), possessive adjectives (**my, our**, etc.) and time phrases and place words change in the same way as in reported statements. The word order in the reported question is the same as the statement. The question mark (**?**) and the auxiliary verbs **do/does/did** are not used in reported questions.

Direct question : "How old **are you**?" (How old + verb + subject?)
Reported question : She asked me how old **I was**. (... how old + subject + verb.)

Direct question : "Where **are you going**?"
Reported question : He asked me where **I was going**.

REPORTING QUESTIONS

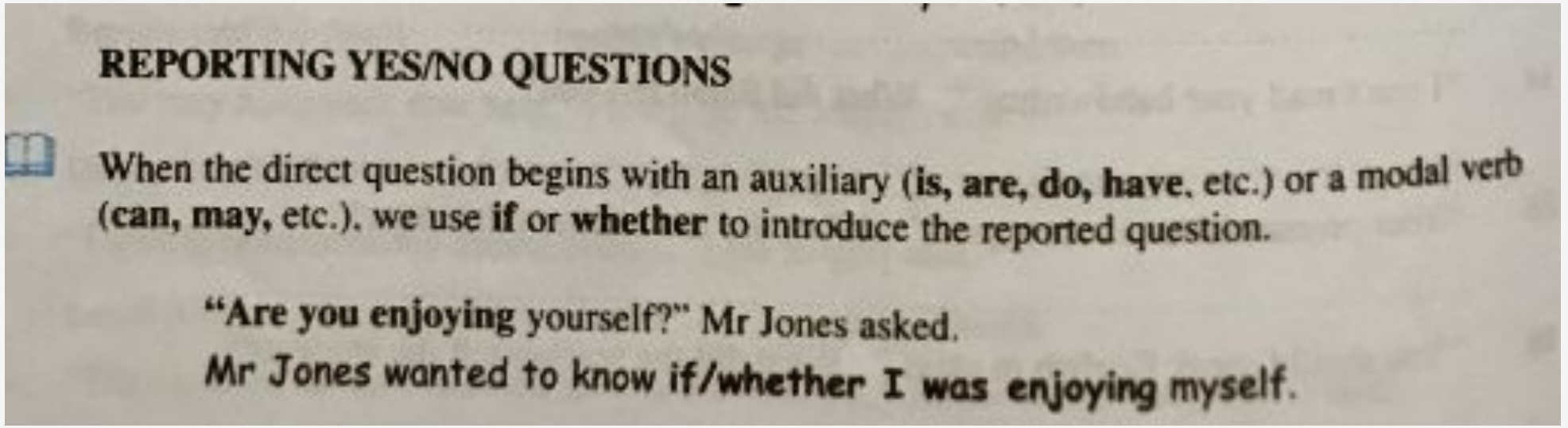
When the question words **who** and **what** ask for the subject, the word order doesn't change, but when they ask for the object, the word order changes.

"What caused the accident?" (what – subject)
The police wanted to know **what had caused** the accident.

"Who did you phone last night? (who – object)
Tom asked me **who I had phoned** the night before.

"What did you buy yesterday?" (what – object)
He asked me **what I had bought** the day before.

REPORTING QUESTIONS



REPORTING YES/NO QUESTIONS

When the direct question begins with an auxiliary (**is, are, do, have**, etc.) or a modal verb (**can, may,** etc.), we use **if** or **whether** to introduce the reported question.

"Are you enjoying yourself?" Mr Jones asked.

Mr Jones wanted to know **if/whether I was enjoying** myself.

Enf of Chapter

Homework, Announcemets... etc