# REPORTED SPEECH



Reported speech refers to using a noun clauses to report what someone has said. No quotation marks are used.



Notice the changes in the verb forms from qouted speech to reported speech in the following examples:

## Quoted speech:

She said, "I watched TU every day."

#### Reported speech:

She said (that) she watched TU every day.

# Quoted speech:

She said, "I am watcing TU."

## Reported speech:

She said (that) she was watcing TU.

To report what someone said, we use a reporting verb followed by an optional THAT.

#### FOR EXAMPLE:

He said that he wants us to read Chapter six.

Jeff said that he was coming here.



When you report samebody's word using (said ,asked,etc.) you usually change the tence to one further back in the past.

#### CHANGES:

1. Direct speech:

'I' put the letters in the post.'

Change:

will to whould

Reported speech:

He said we <u>would</u> put the letters in the post.

'I work for insurance company.

Change:

work to worked

Reported speech:

She said she <u>worked</u> for an insurance company.

'We can't borrow any more.'

Change:

can't to couldn't work

Reported speech:

They said they <u>couldn't</u> borrow any more money from the bank.

'We've moved to a bigger house.'

Change:

have moved to had moved Reported speech:

They said they <u>had moved</u> to a bigger house.

'I must pay the gas bill.'

Change:

must to had to

Reported

speech:

She said she <u>had to</u> pay the gas bill.

#### NO CHANGES:

Some verb tences used in direct speech do not change in reported speech. The 'reporting' verb is often in the present tence.

# The verbs do not normally changed when:

1. reporting a present state of affairs e.g.

Direct speech:

The cost of living here is high.'

Reported speech:

The reporter said that the cost of living here is high.

2. reporting things which are always true e.g.

#### Direct speech:

'It's always cold at this time of year.'

#### Reported speech:

Mary says it's always cold at this time of year.

3.reported thing we believe (or someone believes) will happened e.g.

#### Direct speech:

They're going to sack 300 workers next week.'

#### Reported speech:

The union representative said thay <u>are going to sack</u> 300 workers next week.

4. They are modal stractures; would, could, might, ought, and should, e.g.

#### Direct speech:

You might be mistaken.'

#### Reported speech:

She said (that) he <u>might</u> be mistaken.

# REPORTING STATEMENTS

### 1.VERB(+THAT)

(e.g. Say, claim, explain, admit,insist, agree, complain,)

'I'm hot.' She <u>explained</u> that he was hot.

'I'm an art student.' She <u>said</u> she <u>was</u> an art student.

# NOT CE: admit and deny can also be followed by the —ing form.

# 1.VERB+pronoun/noun(THAT)

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(e.g. tell)
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'I'm an art student.' She <u>told</u> him (that)she <u>was</u> an art student.

#### 2.VERB+infinitive

(e.g.offer,refuse,agree,promise)

'I'll take you to the dance.'——. He offered *to take* her to the dance.

## 4.VERB+for+ -ing form

(e.g apologize,thank)

'I'm sorry I trod on your foot.' She apologized for treading on his foot.

# REPORTED REQUESTS AND ORDERS:

'Close the door, please?'—— He *asked me to close* the door.

'Please, don't shout.' — She asked them not to shout.

'Sit, Rover.'——The boy told his dog to sit.

'Don't move.' —— The policeman ordered to burglar not to move.

# REPORTING QUESTIONS:

Remember to change the word order in a reported question to subject by verb.

'What time is it?' He asked what time *it was*.

Remember to use <u>if</u> and <u>whether</u> if there is no question word.

'Are you tired?'——— He asked *if* I was tired.

'Do you the car or not?'\_\_\_\_\_ She wondered *whether* I wanted the car.

#### REPORTING SUGGESTIONS:

Suggest can be followed by an —ing form, or that+should+infinitive

'Let's go home.' He suggested going home. He suggested that they should go home.