

# Reported Speech

English tutorials

# reported speech

Reported speech (sometimes also referred to as “indirect speech”) refers to a sentence reporting what someone has said.

Several changes occur when we do this.

- verb
- tenses;
- pronouns;
- time expressions;
- place expressions.

# reported speech

- Changing verb tenses:

Direct speech		Reported speech
Present Simple	→	Past Simple
Present Continuous	→	Past Continuous
Present Perfect Simple	→	Past Perfect Simple
Present Perfect Continuous	→	Past Perfect Continuous
Past Simple	→	Past Perfect Simple
Future	→	Conditional
Imperative	→	Infinitive

Note that the Past Perfect Simple and the Past Perfect Continuous do not change.

# reported speech

- Changing pronouns, personal and possessive:

Direct speech		
I	me	my
We	us	ours

→

→

Reported speech		
he / she	him / her	his / her
they	them	their



# reported speech

- Time expressions:

Direct speech		Reported speech
Now	→	then
Today	→	that day
Tonight	→	that night
Yesterday	→	the day before
Tomorrow	→	the following day / the next day
next day / week / month / year	→	the following day / week / month / year

# reported speech

- Place expressions:

Direct speech		Reported speech
Here	→	there
This	→	that
These	→	those

# reported speech

Look at the girl on the right. We would turn the statement into the reported speech by changing:

- the verb from the present simple to the past simple
- the personal pronoun I to she
- the possessive pronoun my to her

The sentence would then be:

***The girl said she loved her new dress.***





# reported speech

There are several reporting verbs we can use:

→ The most commonly used one is to say.  
*She said she was studying.*

→ When the person who we are talking to is referred, we can use to tell.  
*You told me you liked your new dress.*

→ We may report something that was said without keeping to the original words, the reporting verb itself may contain that idea or intention. The verbs here can be: to admit, to advise, to agree, to remind, to suggest, to encourage, to insist, to persuade, to warn, to refuse, to urge, among others.  
- *I admit it, I did it!*

*She admitted she did it.*



# reported speech

## **Time to practise!**

Look at the images that will appear and change what the characters say into the reported speech. Take in consideration all the changes that must occur: in the verbs, the pronouns and the expressions of time and place.

# reported speech

My mother  
gives me new  
dolls regularly.





# reported speech

*The girl said her mother gave her  
new dolls regularly.*

My mother  
gives me new  
dolls regularly.





# reported speech

My book  
is being very  
interesting!





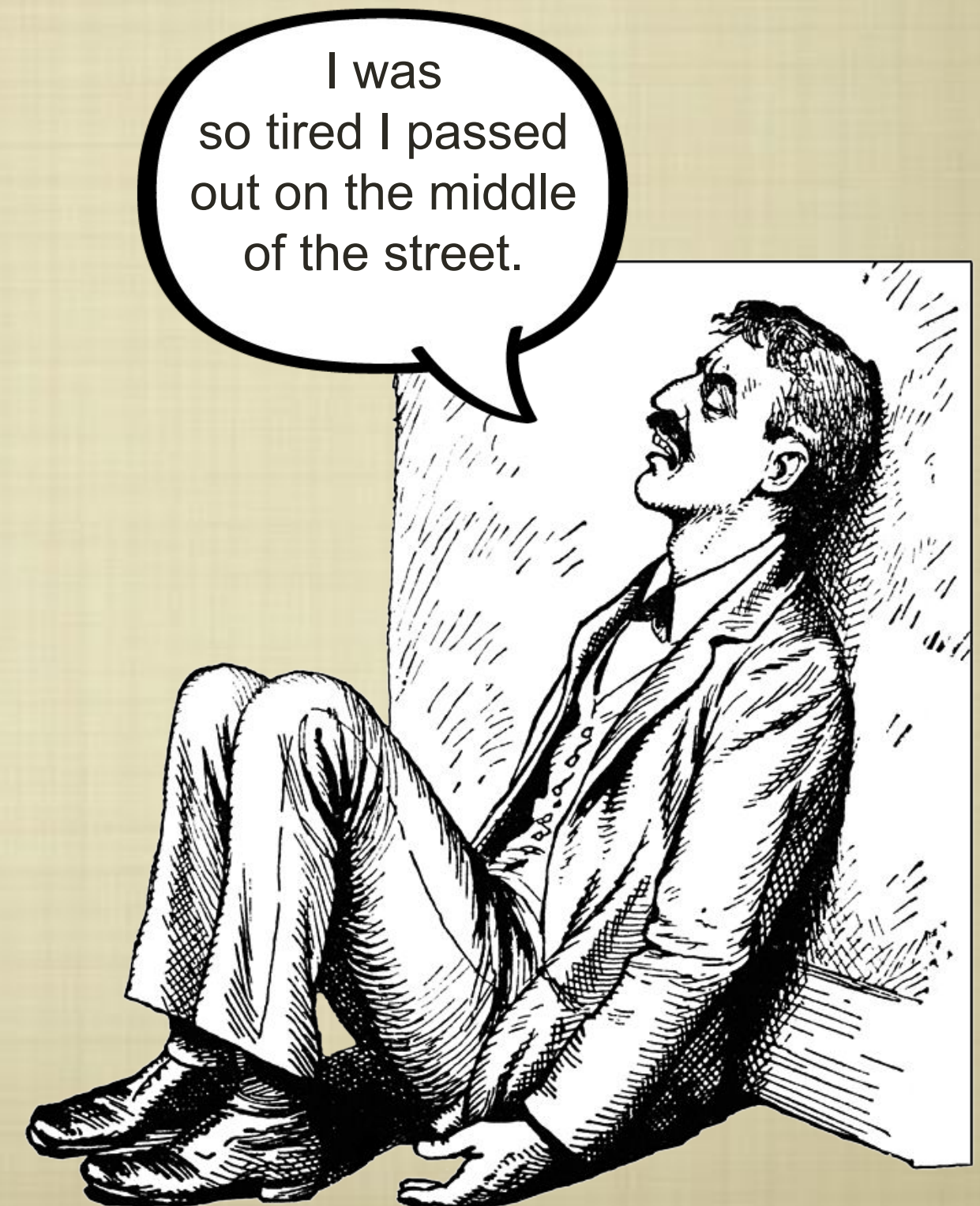
# reported speech

*The woman said her book was being very interesting.*

My book  
is being very  
interesting!



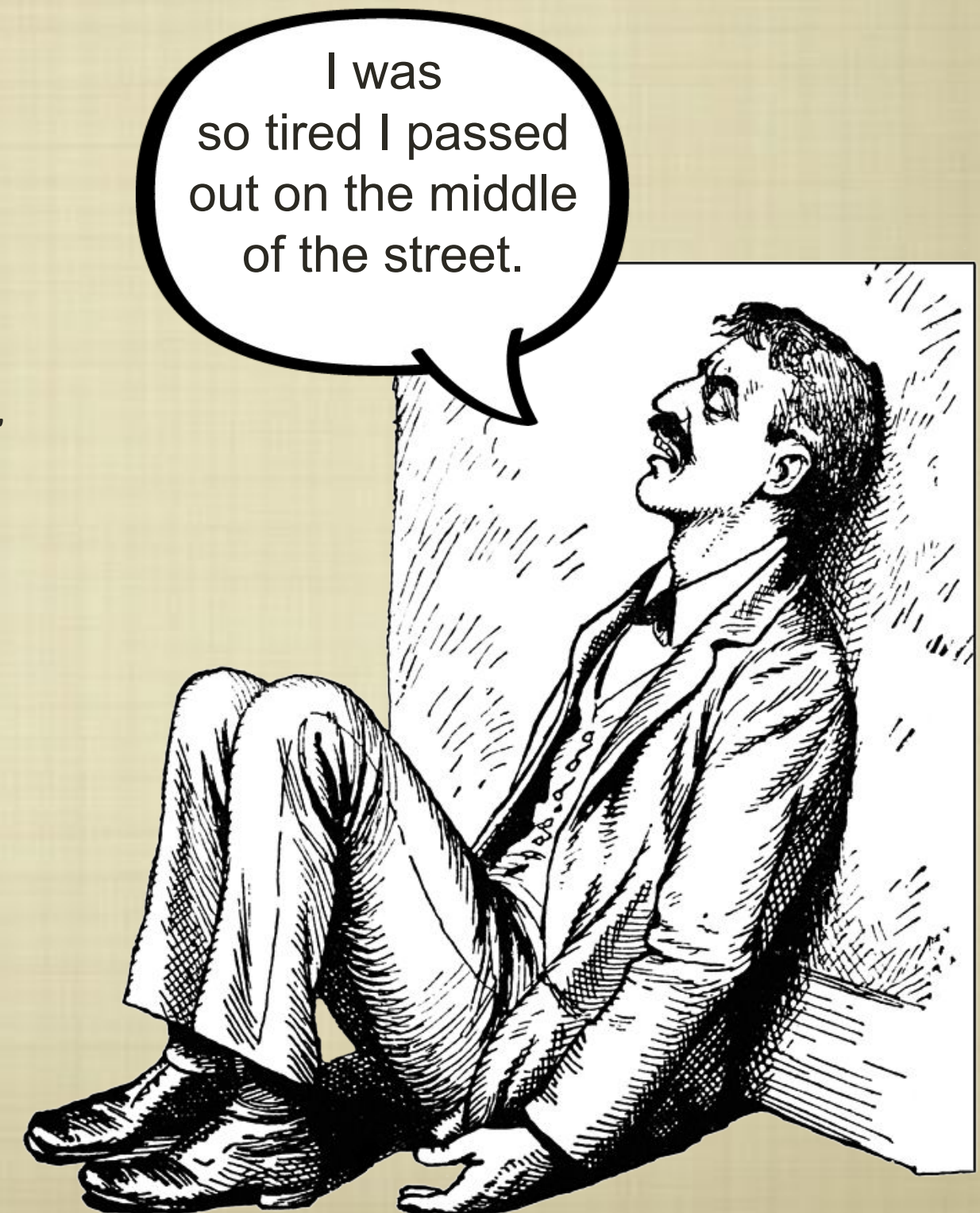
# reported speech





# reported speech

*The man said he had been so tired he passed out  
on the middle of the street.*



# reported speech





# reported speech

*The woman said it had been years since she  
had had that much fun.*



# reported speech





# reported speech

*The girl said she would catch a fish that day.*



# reported speech





# reported speech

*The man yelled at me to stop.*

