

# REPORTED SPEECH

Intermediate Level

# When do we use it?

- REPORTED SPEECH is used to tell what someone said. Yet, we do not repeat all the words exactly.
  - REAL WORDS (direct speech):  
*Tom said: "We are going to the cinema this afternoon."*
  - REPORTED SPEECH:  
*Tom said that they were going to the cinema that afternoon.*

# Changes

- Types of changes:
  1. **Verb Tenses**
  2. **Time and place adverbial expressions**
  3. **Logical change of pronouns**
- **EXAMPLE**
  - *DIRECT: Mary said: "They are seeing me tomorrow"*
  - *REPORTED: Mary said that they were seeing her the following day*

# Verb Tenses

## DIRECT SPEECH REPORTED SPEECH

- PRESENT 
  - We **study**
  - We **are studying**
- PAST 
  - We **studied**
  - We **were studying**
- FUTURE 
  - We **will study**
- PAST
  - She said that they **studied**
  - She said that they **were studying**
- PAST PERFECT
  - She said that they **had studied**
  - She said that they **had been studying**
- CONDITIONAL
  - She said that they **would study**

# List of Verb Changes

TENSE	DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
PRESENT SIMPLE	I <b>play</b> tennis with my friends	She said that she <b><u>played</u></b> tennis with her friends
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	I <b>am playing</b> tennis with my friends	She said that she <b><u>was playing</u></b> tennis with her friends
PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE	I <b>have played</b> tennis with my friends	She said that she <b><u>had played</u></b> tennis with her friends
PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS	I <b>have been playing</b> tennis with my friends	She said that she <b><u>had been playing</u></b> tennis with her friends
PAST SIMPLE	I <b>played</b> tennis with my friends	She said that she <b><u>had played</u></b> tennis with her friends
PAST CONTINUOUS	I <b>were playing</b> tennis with my friends	She said that she <b><u>had been playing</u></b> tennis with her friends
PAST PERFECT SIMPLE	I <b>had played</b> tennis with my friends	She said that she <b><u>had played</u></b> tennis with her friends
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS	I <b>had been playing</b> tennis with my friends	She said that she <b><u>had been playing</u></b> tennis with her friends
FUTURE SIMPLE	I <b>will play</b> tennis with my friends	She said that they <b><u>would play</u></b> tennis with her friends

# DIRECT SPEECH

# REPORTED SPEECH

CAN

COULD

MAY

MIGHT

MUST / HAVE TO

MUST / HAD TO

WILL

WOULD



# Time and Place Adverb Change

## DIRECT SPEECH

Now

Today

Tonight

Yesterday

Last week

A \_\_\_\_\_  
ago

Tomorrow

Next  
\_\_\_\_\_

Here

This

These

## REPORTED SPEECH

Then

That day

That night

The previous day / the day before

The previous week / the week before

The previous \_\_\_\_\_ / the \_\_\_\_\_ before

The following day / the day after / the  
next day

The following \_\_\_\_\_ / the \_\_\_\_\_  
after

There

That

Those

## Reported statements

- Pay attention to the changes mentioned before.
- **'That'** can be omitted with "TELL & SAY":
  - *She told him **that** he was a fool.*
  - *She told him he was a fool.*
  - *She said **that** I was right*
  - *She said I was right*
- Remember not to use inverted commas.
- Observe that when you use TELL, you must mention "**the person you're speaking to**"
  - *John said: "Ann, I'm very happy."*
  - *John told **Ann** that he was very happy.*



# Reported questions

- Same changes as for statements.
- In "REPORTED QUESTIONS" we do not have a question structure, now we have a "statement"
  - Subject + verb + complements
  - Paul asked: "Are you coming to the party tonight, Jane?"
    - Paul asked Jane if she was coming to the party that night.
- Types of questions:
  1. YES/NO QUESTIONS: IF / WHETHER + SUBJECT + VERB + COMPLEMENTS
    - Paul asked : "**Do** you **play** volleyball?"
    - Paul asked me **whether (or if)** I **played** volleyball.
  2. WH- QUESTION : WH- + SUBJECT + VERB + COMPLEMENTS
    - John asked: "**When** do you **play** badminton?"
    - John asked me **when** I **played** badminton.

# Reported commands

- Same basic changes as statements
- Basic introductory verb: TELL
- The IMPERATIVE verbal form turns into
  - TO + "INFINITIVE" (Affirmative)
  - NOT + TO + "INFINITIVE" (Negative)
- **Examples.-**
  - "Come here" He told me  He told me to go there
  - Father: "Do your homework!"  Father told me to do my homework.
  - Teacher. "Don't talk to your mate!"  The teacher told me not to talk to my mate.

# Other verbs used for the IMPERATIVE:

- **ORDER** (ordenar)
  - *"Get out of the car!" said the policeman.*
    - The policeman **ordered him to get out of the car.**
- **ASK** (Pedir)
  - *"Could you please be quiet," she said.*
    - She **asked me to be quiet.**
- **WARN** (advertir)
  - *The man with the gun said to us, "Don't move!"*
    - The man with the gun **warned us not to move.**
- We can also use:
  - **INVITE** (Invitar),
  - **BEG** (Suplicar),
  - **FORBID** (Prohibir)

# Suggestions:

✓ We use a *that*-clause introduced by "suggest".

✓ 'That' y 'should' are optional in these cases:

She said: "Why don't you get a mechanic to look at the car?"

She **suggested** that I should get a mechanic to look at the car.

She **suggested** I get a mechanic to look at the car.

✓ Other verbs we can use:

- **Insist**

- "It would be a good idea to see the dentist", said my mother.

- My mother **insisted that I see the dentist**

- **Recommend**

- The dentist said, "I think you should use a different toothbrush".

- The dentist **recommended that I should use a different toothbrush.**

- **Notes:**

*Suggest* can be followed by V-ing:

I *suggested* **postponing** the visit to the dentist.

# HOPES, INTENTIONS, PROMISES

- ❖ In these cases we would use a “reporting verb” related to the meaning, followed by **that-clause** or **to-infinitive**:
  - ❖ "I'll pay you the money tomorrow."
    - ❖ He **promised to pay** me the money the next day.
    - ❖ He **promised that he would pay** me the money the next day.
- ❖ Other verbs that follow this structure:
  - ❖ **Hope (Tener esperanza)**
    - ❖ "We should arrive in London before nightfall."
    - ❖ They **hoped to arrive** in London before nightfall.
    - ❖ They **hoped they would arrive** in London before nightfall.
  - ❖ **Threaten (Amenazar)**
    - ❖ "Give me the keys to the safe or I'll shoot you!"
    - ❖ He **threatened to shoot** me if I didn't give him the keys to the safe.
    - ❖ He **threatened that he would shoot** me if I didn't give him the keys to the safe.
  - ❖ **Swear (Jurar)**
    - ❖ "I swear it! I'll be back by lunchtime."
    - ❖ He **swears to be back** by lunchtime.
    - ❖ He **swears that he would be back** by lunchtime.

# Some reporting verbs.

<b>IF / WHETHER + sentence</b>	<b>THAT + sentence</b>	<b>THAT + sentence or infinitive</b>	<b>THAT+ sentence or should</b>	<b>Object + infinitive</b>
ASK REMEMBER SAY	ANSWER BOAST COMPLAIN DENY REPLY SAY SUGGEST TELL WARN	CLAIM PROMISE THREATEN	ADVISE BEG DEMAND RECOMMEND SUGGEST	ADVISE ASK BEG INVITE ORDER SHOUT WARN