

# Reported questions

## What is important?



- **Word order**
- **Do/did**
- **Negative questions**
- **Yes/no questions**
- **Pronouns**
- **Verb tenses**
- **Time and place expressions**

# Reported questions

## 1. Word order

When we are reporting questions, **the subject** comes before **the verb** (the word order changes to a statement order)

	question word	auxiliary verb	subject		verb
	<b><i>“What</i></b>	<b><i>are</i></b>	<b><i>you</i></b>		<b><i>doing?”</i></b>
				auxiliary verb	
He asked me	<b><i>what</i></b>		<b><i>I</i></b>	<b><i>was</i></b>	<b><i>doing.</i></b>

# Reported questions

## 1. Word order

Direct speech	Reported speech
<p><i>"Where are you going?"</i></p> <p><i>"What have you done?"</i></p>	<p>He asked me <i>where I was going.</i></p> <p>She asked me <i>what I had done.</i></p>
<p>"Why is she shouting?"</p> <p>"How old is your mother?"</p> <p>"Why are you so small?"</p> <p>"When can we have dinner?"</p> <p><i>"What have you bought?"</i></p> <p><i>"What were you doing?"</i></p> <p><i>"Where are you hiding him?"</i></p> <p><i>"Where were you born?"</i></p>	<p>He asked me .....</p> <p>She asked .....</p> <p>The elephant asked the mouse ....</p> <p>They asked .....</p> <p>Her friend asked her.....</p> <p>Teacher asked his students ....</p> <p>The policeman asked them .....</p> <p>We asked him ....</p>

# Reported questions

## 2. do/does/did

Normal word order is used in reported questions, so it is **not** necessary to use '**do**' or '**did**':

Direct speech	Reported speech
"Where <b>do</b> they live?"	She asked him <i>where they lived.</i>
"What time <b>does</b> the train arrive?"	She asked <i>what time the train arrived.</i>
"Why <b>did</b> you leave?"	He asked her <i>why she had left.</i>

# Reported questions do/does/did

- “When **did** you come?”
- “Where **do** you study?”
- “What **does** he want to know?”
- “Who **did** you invite to the party?”
- “*What time **do** you plan to meet her?*”
- “*Why **does** she cry so often?*”
- “*How long **did** they stay there?*”
- “*Who **did** you talk to?*”

# Reported questions

## 3. Negative questions

We do not use the auxiliary verb '**do**', except in negative questions.

Direct speech	Reported speech
"Who <b>doesn't</b> like cheese?"	She asked me who <b>didn't</b> like cheese.
"Why <b>don't</b> you listen?"	The teacher asked him why he <b>didn't</b> listen.

# Reported questions

## 3. Negative questions

- “Why **didn't** you want to watch that film?”
- “Who **doesn't** speak English here?”
- “What **don't** you like about England?”
- “Why **didn't** you go to the theater?”
- “*Why **don't** you do your homework?*”
- “*What else **doesn't** he know?*”
- “*Why **didn't** you add some more sugar?*”
- “*Who **doesn't** live in Pavlovsk?*”

# Reported questions

## 4. yes/no questions

We report yes / no questions with **'if'** or **'whether'**.

Direct speech	Reported speech
<p><i>"Do you want to come?"</i></p> <p><i>"Have you fed the dog?"</i></p> <p><i>"Are you going with us?"</i></p>	<p>I asked him <b><i>if he wanted to come.</i></b></p> <p>My mother asked <b><i>whether I had fed the dog.</i></b>"</p> <p>The teacher asked the kids <b><i>if they were going with them.</i></b></p>



# Reported questions

## 4. yes/no questions

- "Do you speak English?" He asked me ...
- "Are you British or American?" He asked me ....
- "Is it raining?" She asked ....
- "Have you got a computer?" He wanted to know...
- *"Can you type?" She asked .....*
- *"Did you come by train?" He enquired ...*
- *"Have you been to Bristol before?" She asked ...*
- *"What have you been doing?" He asked her ...*

# Reported questions

## who, what, which

- When we report questions with '*who, what or which*' + *to be* + *complement*, the verb '**to be**' can come before or after the complement.

- DIRECT SPEECH: "Who **is** the champion?"  
REPORTED SPEECH: She asked me who the champion **was**.

OR She asked me who **was** the champion.

- DIRECT SPEECH: "What **is** your favourite colour?"  
REPORTED SPEECH: She asked me what my favourite colour **was**.

OR She asked me what **was** my favourite colour.



INTERVIEWER

How old are you?

What do you do in your spare time?

How long have you been working in your present job?

Why did you apply for the job?

Have you got a driving licence?

Can you speak any foreign languages?



YOU

Larry asked Anna:  
"Where is John?"

Larry asked Anna  
where John was.

