



Reported Speech

Direct speech is the exact words someone said.
We use quotation marks in Direct speech.

Quotation
marks



"Did you do your history reading?" my mother asked.

"Not yet," I said.

She told me, "You should do it right now before you watch any TV."

"But my favorite show is about to start," I protested, "and I don't have time to finish before then."

"That's too bad," she said.

Reported speech is the exact meaning of what someone said but not the exact words.
We do not use quotation marks in Reported speech.



SAY - TELL

Direct
speech →

She **said to me**, "I am very tired."

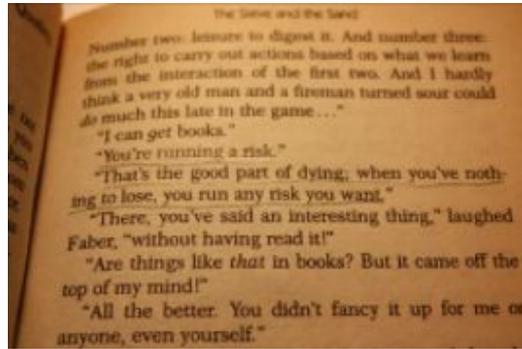
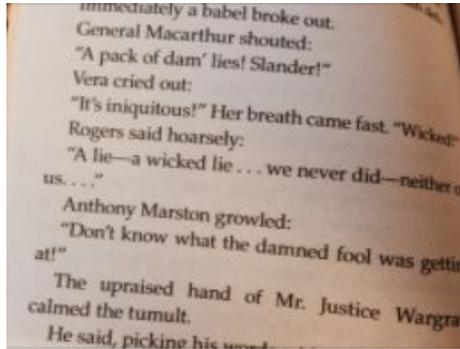
Reported
speech →

She **told me** that she was very tired.

Reported
speech →

She **said that** she was very tired.

We use **say** in Direct speech. We also use **say** in Reported speech when **say** is not followed by the person the words were spoken to. We use **tell** in reported speech when **tell** is followed by the person the words were spoken to.



DIMA: Hi, Kate. This is Pavel. He will be in our class.
PAVEL: Hi! Nice to meet you, Kate.
KATE: Hello! Welcome to our school. Now we'll have 14 girls and 14 boys in our class.
PAVEL: That's great!
DIMA: Kate, you look very happy today. Any good news?
KATE: Oh, do I? I think it's because of Barbry.
PAVEL: Who's Barbry? Your new doll?
KATE: Oh, no! Barbry is the nickname (aproname) of Barbary Gray. She taught us English last year. She's from Britain. I've just got a letter from her.
DIMA: She was great! She didn't give bad marks. What does she say in her letter?
KATE: No idea. I didn't like to open and read it by myself. Let's do it together.
DIMA: Hurry up, then!

Learn these expressions:

Сказать доброе утро и т.д.

Сказать что-то

Читать молитвы

Так сказать

Говорить правду

Лгать

Рассказывать историю

Говорить время

Различать

Говорить кому-то чье-то имя

Рассказывать кому-то дорогу

Отличать одну вещь от другой

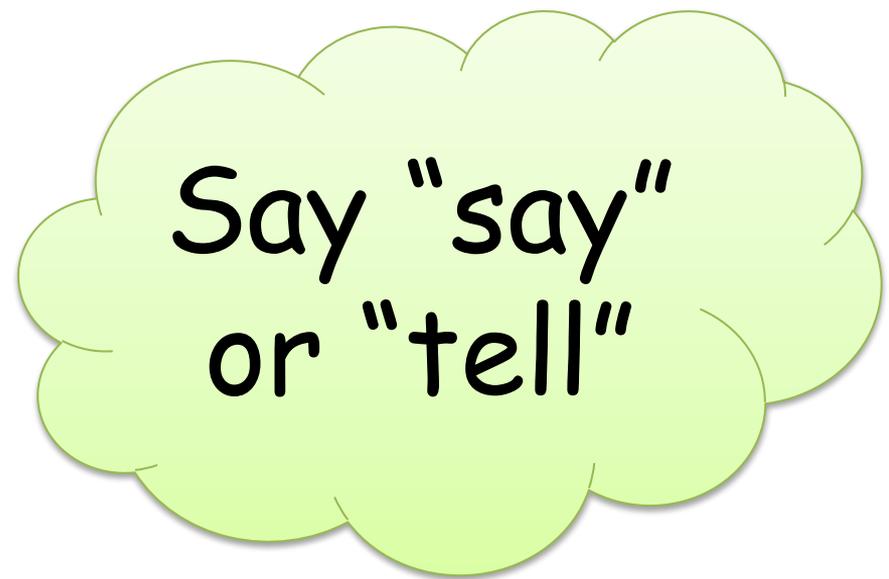
Say ...
or...

tell



A close-up of Mr. Bean's face, tilted upwards, with a wide-eyed, surprised expression. He is wearing a white shirt and a red tie.

WELL DONE!

A large, light green, cloud-shaped thought bubble with a black outline. It is connected to Mr. Bean's head by three smaller circles of the same color.

Say "say"
or "tell"

Fill in "say" or "tell" in the correct form.

1. The policeman said that the man was lying.
2. Philip said it would probably rain tomorrow.
3. Susan said, "Let's go out for dinner tonight."
4. Jim told me about the party last night.
5. Our teacher said he was pleased with our work.
6. Yesterday my friend said he hadn't told (not) anyone my secret.



Fill in "say" or "tell" in the correct form.

7. Stoptelling... lies!
8. Could you pleasetell... me your name?
9. The little girlsaid... her prayers and went to bed.
10. I really can'ttell... Jane from Kate. They are twins.
11. "I haven't got enough money," hesaid... to John.
12. Hesaid... he would meet us later.



To report statements we use a reporting verb (**say, tell, advise, explain, promise** etc.) followed by a **that-clause**. In spoken English that may be omitted.

To omit - опускать

Pronouns and possessive adjectives change according to the meaning:

Direct speech: He said, "**I** can't fix it **myself**."

Reported Speech: He said **he** couldn't fix it **himself**.

Certain words change as follows:

this

these

here

come

that

those

there

go

"This is my book," he said.

He said that was his book.



Certain words change as follows:

this

that

these

those

here

there

come

go



can

could

will

would

may

might

must

had to



When the reporting verb is in the Past the verb tenses change as follows:

Direct speech

Reported speech



Present Simple



Past Simple

"I **can't remember** his name,"
she said.

She said she **couldn't remember**
his name.

Present Continuous



Past Continuous

"She's **speaking** to Joe," he said.

She said she **was speaking** to Joe.

Present Perfect



Past Perfect

"I've **bought** you some flowers,"
she said.

She said she **had bought** me
some flowers.

When the reporting verb is in the Past the verb tenses change as follows:

Direct speech

Reported speech



Past Simple



Past Perfect

"He **lost** all the money," she said.

She said that he **had lost** all the money.

Future



Conditional

"I'll **see** you later," he said.

He said he **would see** me later.

Time expressions change as follows:

Direct speech

tonight

today

this week/month/year

now

now that

yesterday

tomorrow

last night/week/month/year

next week/month/year

two days/month/years ago

Reported speech

that night

that day

that week/month/year

then

at that time

immediately

since

at once

the day before

the day after

the previous night/week/month/year

the next week/month/year

the following day

two days/month/years before



"He arrived **last week**," she said. She said that he had arrived **the previous week**.

There are no changes in verb tenses when the reporting verb is in the Present, Future or Present Perfect tense or when the sentence expresses something which is always true.

Direct
speech

She'll **say**, "I can do it."

"The earth **is** round," said the teacher.

Reported
speech

She'll **say** (that) she can do it.

The teacher said (that) the earth **is** round.

The Past Continuous does not usually change.

Direct
speech

"I **was travelling** to Brighton while she **was flying** to the USA," he said.

Reported
speech

He said he **was travelling** to Brighton while she **was flying** to the USA.

Certain modal verbs do not change in Reported speech.
These are: **would, could, might, should, ought to.**



Direct
speech

"He might visit us," Mum said.

Reported
speech

Mum said that he **might** visit us.



1. They'll make a lovely
4. The bride is wearing a beautiful wedding dress. (Mr Roberts)

2. They're going to live

5. The couple's parents look happy. (Mr Clarke)

6. The bride's father has bought them a big flat. (Miss Mayall)



ery

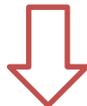
Miss Mayall said that the bride's father had bought them a big flat.



Reported Questions

Direct
speech

He asked, "What time is it?"



Reported
speech

He asked what time it was.

Direct
speech

He asked me, "Do you know her?"



Reported
speech

He asked me if/whether I knew her.

In Reported questions we use affirmative word order and the question mark is omitted. To report a **wh-question**, we use **ask** followed by the question word (who, what, etc). When there is no question word in direct questions, **if** or **whether** is used in Reported questions. Pronouns, possessive adjectives, tenses, time expressions etc. change as in statements.

Report the police-officer's questions to the shop owner.

1. The police-officer asked him what his name was.

2. The police-officer asked him if he had seen the robbers.

3. The police-officer asked him what they were wearing.

4. The police-officer asked him how he thought they had got in.

5. The police-officer asked him what they had taken.

6. The police-officer asked him if that had ever happened before.

4. How do you think they got in?

5. What did they take?

6. Has this ever happened before?

3. What were they wearing?

2. Did you see the robbers?

1. What's your name?



Reported Commands / Requests / Suggestions

Direct
speech

He said to me, "Stop talking!"

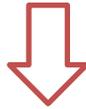


Reported
speech

He told me to stop talking.

Direct
speech

He said to me, "Don't touch it."



Reported
speech

He told me not to touch it.

To report commands, requests, suggestions etc we use a reporting verb (order, ask, tell, advise, offer, warn, suggest* etc) followed by to-infinitive or not to-infinitive.

(*suggest is followed by the -ing form. eg. He said, "Shall we go by bus?" - He suggested going by bus.)

Report what Mrs Lane told her babysitter to do.

... not to answer the door to anyone.

... to phone her if there was an emergency.

... to give the children a bath before they went to bed.

... to put the toys away in the cupboard.

Mrs Lane told her babysitter ...

... not to let the children eat any sweets.

... to close all the windows.

... not to take the dog into the children's bedroom.

... to send the children to bed at 9 o'clock.