

## 12.1 Reported speech

We use reported speech to talk about what someone said. We often use the reporting verbs *say* and *tell* most commonly (the past forms *said* and *told*).

### GR12.1a )))

Direct speech	Reported speech
1 'It's a great idea.'	He said that it <b>was</b> a great idea.
2 'I really <b>like</b> the new ad.'	She said that she really <b>liked</b> the new ad.
3 'It <b>was</b> a long journey.'	He told us that it <b>had been</b> a long journey.
4 'I <b>ve</b> never <b>been</b> there.'	She told us she'd never <b>been</b> there.
5 'We <b>re</b> <b>hoping</b> sales will increase.'	He said they <b>were hoping</b> sales would increase.
6 'It <b>ll</b> <b>get</b> easier with practice.'	He told them it <b>would get</b> easier with practice.

- *Tell* must have a personal object (e.g. *He told me, I told them*). *Say* does not have a personal object (NOT *He said me*).
- We can generally use reported speech with or without *that* (e.g. *He said ...* or *He said that ...*).

### Tense changes

When we use reported speech, tenses usually move one tense back (*do* → *did*, *is* → *was*, *did* or *have done* → *had done*, *will* → *would*, etc.). This helps to show that the words were spoken in the past. The pronoun can also change (e.g. from *I* to *he*).

However, we sometimes do not change the tense. This is usually when something is still true or important.  
*She said they'll be ten minutes late.*

### 'Here and now' words

Words which talk about time and place may also sometimes change when the reporter's 'here and now' is not the same as the original speaker's.

### GR12.1b )))

Direct speech	Reported speech
1 'The film was released <b>last summer</b> .'	He said (that) the film had been released <b>the previous summer</b> .
2 'The filming is <b>tomorrow</b> .'	She said (that) the filming was <b>the next day</b> .
3 'I saw him here <b>yesterday</b> .'	He said (that) he'd seen him there <b>the day before</b> .
4 'It's on TV <b>this Monday</b> .'	She told me (that) it was on TV <b>that Monday</b> .

### 1 Complete the sentences with *said* or *told*.

- David said he was an actor.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ he'd been in several TV ads that year.
- Anna \_\_\_\_\_ me she wanted to be a model.
- Kate \_\_\_\_\_ she had designed the brochure.
- Andy \_\_\_\_\_ us he was from Canada.

### 2 Rewrite the statements as reported speech.

- 'I'll watch the film with you.'  
Tom said (that) he'd watch the film with us.
- 'We don't understand what the advert is selling.'  
They said \_\_\_\_\_
- 'Marek watched TV all day.'  
Joanna told us \_\_\_\_\_
- 'I think we're going to the cinema at the weekend.'  
Sharon said \_\_\_\_\_
- 'We don't like action movies.'  
Andrea and Pawel said \_\_\_\_\_
- 'I've seen this documentary before.'  
Andy told me \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Alexia is talking about her acting experience and her hopes for the future. Report what she says.

'<sup>1</sup> I really want to be an actor. <sup>2</sup> I think I have a natural talent for acting. <sup>3</sup> I've been in a few plays. <sup>4</sup> I was once in a TV advert. <sup>5</sup> I played a woman queuing in a bank. <sup>6</sup> It was a great experience and I really enjoyed it. <sup>7</sup> I hope I'll get another chance to be on TV again. <sup>8</sup> I'm determined to become a professional actor.'

- She said/told me (that) she really wanted to be an actor.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 The time and place references in these statements have now changed. Report the statements, changing the 'here and now' words.

- 'I saw this film last week.'  
He said (that) he'd seen the film the week before/the previous week.
- 'We're having a meeting tomorrow.'  
She told me \_\_\_\_\_
- 'I'm going to London this Monday.'  
He said \_\_\_\_\_
- 'The award ceremony will be held here in the hotel.'  
They announced \_\_\_\_\_

## 12.2 Reported questions

### GR12.2a )))

Direct question	Reported question
1 'When <b>are they</b> going?'	She asked when <b>they were</b> going.
2 'Where <b>does she</b> live?'	He asked me where <b>she lived</b> .
3 'What <b>have you</b> done?'	She wanted to know what <b>I'd done</b> .

We use reported questions to say what someone asked. We usually use the reporting verb *asked*. We can use *asked* with an object (e.g. *He asked me what ...*) or without an object (e.g. *He asked what ...*). We can use *wanted to know* instead of *asked*.

When we report questions, as with reported speech, we usually move one tense back (*do* → *did*, *is* → *was*, *will* → *would*, etc.). This helps to show that the words were spoken in the past.

Because a reported question is no longer a direct question, we do not invert the subject and the auxiliary verb, and we do not use the auxiliary verb *do*.

### GR12.2b )))

Direct question	Reported question
1 'Did you understand?'	She asked us <b>if</b> we'd understood.
2 'Have you seen Hitoshi?'	He wanted to know <b>if</b> I'd seen Hitoshi.
3 'Do you read a lot?'	She asked <b>whether</b> I read a lot.

To report *yes/no* questions we use *if* or *whether*.

With questions with *be*, we sometimes put the verb at the end of the reported question. This is more usual when the question is short.

'What's your favourite film?'

He asked what my favourite film was.

NOT usually ~~He asked what was my favourite film.~~

### 1 Rewrite the questions as reported questions.

- 'Where do you work?'  
*He asked where I worked.*
- 'Do you live near Istanbul?'  
She \_\_\_\_\_
- 'Have you lived there long?'  
He \_\_\_\_\_
- 'Where did you go to university?'  
She \_\_\_\_\_
- 'Can you give me some advice?'  
He \_\_\_\_\_
- 'Will you help me later?'  
He \_\_\_\_\_
- 'Have you ever read any Shakespeare?'  
She \_\_\_\_\_
- 'What are you doing this evening?'  
She \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Read this interview with businessman Peter Horspath and then report the questions.

- I What makes a good leader?  
P A good leader needs people to follow them.
- I What is the highest compliment you have been paid?  
P It's that I am always honest and fair.
- I What is the worst thing anyone has said about you?  
P Someone once said that my success was a result of luck.
- I What do you look for in the people you do business with?  
P I look for honesty and hard work.
- I What is your worst fault?  
P I sometimes don't give people a second chance.
- I What is the best piece of career advice you can give?  
P It's important to step outside your comfort zone on occasions.
- I Do you have a favourite book?  
P My favourite book is *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie.
- I What do you do to relax?  
P I go to the gym.

- The interviewer asked *what made a good leader.*
- She asked \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_