

REPORTED SPEECH

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SUMMARY

TYPES

STATEMENTS

'I went to Paris'
He said he had gone to Paris

COMMANDS

'Speak up!'
He asked us to speak up

SUGGESTIONS

'Let's go to the park'
He suggested us going to the park.

QUESTIONS

Yes-no questions: 'Do you like it?'
He asked me if I liked it.

Wh- questions: 'Where are you from?'
He asked me where I was from

CHANGES

TIME AND PLACE EXPRESSIONS

Example:
Today → That day

PRONOUNS

Example:
I → He / She

VERBS

Example:
Present → Past
Will → Would

REPORTED SPEECH

REPORTED SPEECH

- ▶ It is used to say what another person has said. There are two types:
 - **Direct speech** (using his/her own words):
 - Mary said, 'I'm going to the beach this weekend.'
 - **Reported speech** (free discourse, not using his/her own words):
 - Mary said (that) she was going to the beach that weekend.

CHANGES

As you can see, there are **certain changes** to be made when using reported speech:

- **Tenses.**
- **Time and place expressions.**
- **Pronouns.**



'I'm going to the beach tomorrow'

She / He said that she was going to the beach the next day.

Tenses

You can see now how the different verbal tenses change in reported speech:

DIRECT SPEECH	turns into	REPORTED SPEECH
PRESENT SIMPLE	'I know everybody here' She said that she knew everybody there.	PAST SIMPLE
PAST SIMPLE	'I met your sister in London' She said that she had met my sister in London.	PAST PERFECT
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	'I'm going to the doctor.' She said that she was going to the doctor.	PAST CONTINUOUS

DIRECT SPEECH	turns into	REPORTED SPEECH
PRESENT PERFECT	<p>‘We have passed the exam.’ She said that they had passed the exam.</p>	PAST PERFECT
PAST PERFECT	<p>‘We had finished earlier.’ She said that they had finished earlier.</p>	PAST PERFECT
PAST CONTINUOUS	<p>‘I was doing my homework.’ She said that she had been doing her homework.</p>	PAST PERF. CONTINUOUS

Modal verbs

DIRECT SPEECH	turns into	REPORTED SPEECH
WILL	'I will help you.' She said that she would help me.	WOULD
CAN	'I can do it by myself.' She said that she could do it by herself.	COULD
MAY	'They may come home.' She said that they might come home.	MIGHT
MUST	'You must keep the secret.' She said that we had to keep the secret.	HAD TO

Time and place

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Now	Then
Today	That day
Tonight	That night
Yesterday	The previous day / The day before
Last week	The previous week / The week before
A...ago	The previous / The...before
Tomorrow	The following day / The day after / The next day
Next...	The following.../ The ...after
Here	There
This / These	That / Those

Pronouns

You can use logic to see the changes. Thus, if you have doubts, remember the following associations:

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
I Me Mine Myself	He / She Him / Her His / Her Himself / Herself
We Us Ours ourselves	They Them Theirs Themselves
You Yours Yourself / yourselves	I / We Mine / Ours Myself / Ourselves

REPORTING VERBS

We normally use the following verbs:

STATEMENTS: SAY/TELL. The difference between them is that **say** can be used without object (or to + object) and **tell** is always used with the object:

- He told me that she knew it.
- He said (to me) that she knew it.

COMMANDS: ORDER/TELL

QUESTIONS: ASK/WONDER

SUGGESTIONS: SUGGEST

COMMANDS

How about if we want to report commands? Have a look at these ones:

- ▶ 'Shut up, boys!'

The teacher asked us **to shut up**.

- ▶ 'Don't speak, boys!'

The teacher asked us **not to speak**.



As you can see, the imperative tense has no subject in English and the verb is used in infinitive without *to*. Thus, if you want to report it, you have to use a *to infinitive* (or *not to-infinitive*) as in the examples above.

QUESTIONS

Remember there are two types of questions:

- ▶ **Yes / No questions:** the answer is always 'yes' or 'no', starting with a verb:
 - 'Do you like football?' 'Yes, I do.'
 - 'Were you at home last night?' 'No, I wasn't.'
- ▶ **Wh questions:** the answer depends on the interrogative pronoun:
 - 'Where did you go?' 'I went to the beach.'
 - 'How often do you play football?' 'I play football once a week.'

Yes–No questions



Do you like English?

As you can see, there are changes as in statements, but we need the verb ASK and include IF. Keep in mind that the word order has a statement structure:

- ▶ **'Do you like** football?', he asked me.
He asked me if / liked football.
- ▶ **'Are you** at home?', he asked me. 'No, **I'm not**', I answered.
He asked me *if / was* at home and I answered */ was not*.

Wh- questions

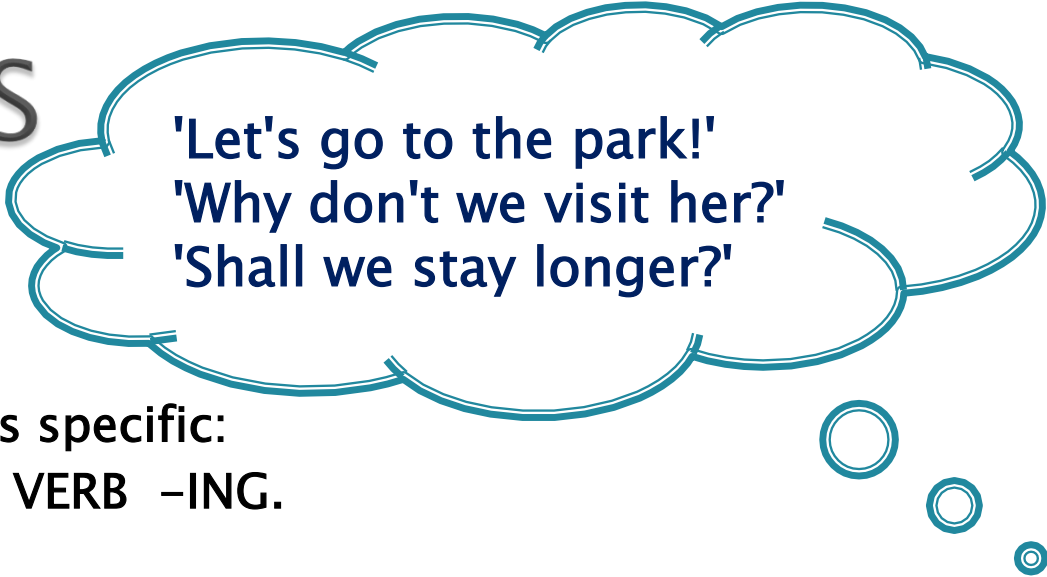
In these cases, there is also a shift in word order and tenses also change. However, IF is substituted by the interrogative pronoun given. Have a look at these examples:

'Where are you going?', he asked me.
He asked me where I was going



What time is it?

SUGGESTIONS



'Let's go to the park!'
'Why don't we visit her?'
'Shall we stay longer?'

In these cases, the structure is specific:
SUBJECT + SUGGESTED + CI + VERB -ING.

- ▶ 'Let's go to the park!'
He suggested us going to the park.
- ▶ 'Why don't we visit her?'
She suggested us visiting her.
- ▶ 'Shall we stay longer?'
He suggested us staying stayed longer.