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Courses of the Second Semester

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➤ ***Course No 01: Reported Speech.....02***

Course № 01 :

Reported Speech

I. Reported Statements

➤ When do we use reported speech? Sometimes someone says a sentence, for example "I'm going to the cinema tonight". Later, maybe we want to tell someone else what the first person said. Here's how it works:

➤ We use a reporting verb like 'say' or 'tell'. If this verb is *in the present tense*, it's easy.

We just put 'she says' and then the sentence:

✓ Direct speech: I **like** ice cream.

✓ Reported speech: She says she **likes** ice cream.

➤ We don't need to change the tense, though probably we do need to change the 'person' from 'I' to 'she', for example. We also may need to change words like 'my' and 'your'.

✓ On the other hand, if the reporting verb *is in the past tense*, then usually we change the tenses in the reported speech:

✓ Direct speech: I **like** ice cream.

✓ Reported speech: She said she **liked** ice cream.

1. PRONOUNS AND ADJECTIVES: CHANGES NECESSARY

A. First and second person pronouns and possessive adjectives normally change to the third person except when the speaker is reporting his own words.

✓ I = he, she

✓ me = him, her

✓ my = his, her

✓ mine = his, hers

✓ we = they...

• She said, "he's my son".

• She said that he was her son.

• "I'm ill", she said.

• She said that she was ill.

B. THIS / THESE

✓ **This** used in time expressions usually becomes **that**.

- *She said, “She’s coming this week”.*
- *She said that she was coming that week.*

2. EXPRESSIONS OF TIME AND PLACE IN INDIRECT SPEECH

A. Adverbs and adverbial phrases of time change as follows:

DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
<i>today</i>	<i>that day</i>
<i>yesterday</i>	<i>the day before</i>
<i>the day before yesterday</i>	<i>two days before</i>
<i>tomorrow</i>	<i>the next day/the following day</i>
<i>the day after tomorrow</i>	<i>in two day’s time</i>
<i>next week/year etc.</i>	<i>the following week/year etc.</i>
<i>last week/year etc.</i>	<i>the previous week/year etc.</i>
<i>a year etc. ago</i>	<i>a year before/the previous year</i>

Examples

- Direct speech: *“I saw her the day before yesterday”, he said.*
- Reported speech: *He said he’d seen her two days before.*
- Direct speech: *“I’ll do it tomorrow”, he promised.*
- Reported speech: *He promised that he would do it the next day.*

3. STATEMENTS IN INDIRECT SPEECH: TENSE CHANGES NECESSARY

A. Indirect speech can be introduced by a verb in a present tense: *He says that ...*

B. When the introductory verb is in a present, present perfect or future tense we can report the direct speech without any change of tense:

PAUL (phoning from the station): *I’m trying to get a taxi.*

ANN (to Mary, who is standing beside her): *Paul says he is trying to get a taxi.*

C. Indirect speech is usually introduced by a verb in the past tense. Verbs in the direct speech have then to be changed into a corresponding past tense. The changes are shown in the following table.

DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
Simple Present <i>"I never eat meat", he explained.</i>	Simple Past <i>= He explained (that) he never ate meat.</i>
Present Continuous <i>"I'm waiting for Ann", he said.</i>	Past Continuous <i>= He said (that) he was waiting for Ann.</i>
Present Perfect <i>"I have found a flat", he said.</i>	Past Perfect <i>= He said (that) he had found a flat.</i>
Present Perfect Continuous <i>He said, "I've been waiting for ages".</i>	Past Perfect Continuous <i>= He said (that) he had been waiting for ages.</i>
Simple Past <i>"I took it home with me", she said.</i>	Past Perfect <i>= She said (that) he had taken it home</i>
Future <i>He said, "I will/shall be in Paris on Monday".</i>	Conditional <i>= He said (that) he would be in Paris on Monday.</i>
Conditional <i>I said, "I would like to see it".</i>	Conditional <i>= I said (that) I would like to see it.</i>

II. Reported Questions

- So now you have no problem with making reported speech . But how about questions?
 - Direct speech: Where do you live?

it's not so different from reported statements. The tense changes are the same, and we keep the question word. The very important thing though is that, once we tell the question to someone else, it isn't a question any more. So we need to change the grammar to a normal positive sentence.:

- Reported speech: She asked me where I lived.

➤ The direct question is the present simple of **'be'**. We make the question form of the present simple of be by **inverting (changing the position of) the subject and verb**. So, we need to change them back before putting the verb into the past simple. Here are some more examples:

Direct Question Reported Question

"Where is the Post Office, please?" She asked me where the Post Office was.

"What are you doing?" She asked me what I was doing.

"Who was that fantastic man?" She asked me who that fantastic man had been.

✓ So much for 'wh' questions. But, what if you need to report a 'yes / no' question We don't have any question words to help us. Instead, we use 'if':

- Direct speech: Do you like chocolate?
- Reported speech: She asked me if I liked chocolate.
- Direct speech: He said, "Can you swim?" and I said "No"
- Reported speech: He asked (me) if I could swim and I said I couldn't.
- Direct speech: He said, "Will you have time to do it?" and I said "Yes"
- Reported speech: He asked if I would have time to do it and I said that I would

III. Reported Requests

There's more! What if someone asks you to do something (*in a polite way*)? For example:

- ✓ Direct speech: Close the window, please.
- ✓ Or: Could you close the window please?
- Reported speech: She asked me to close the window.

➤ **Here are a few more examples of Direct Request Reported Request**

- "Please help me". She asked me to help her.
- "Please don't smoke". She asked me not to smoke.
- "Don't worry!" He told her not to worry.
- "Be on time!" He told me to be on time.