

8.5 Reported Speech

To report what other people said, we can quote their actual words (Direct Speech) or use Reported Speech.

We do not change the quoted words in Direct Speech:
*'We **are playing** on a new basketball court.'* → *They said: 'We **are playing** on a new basketball court.'*

In Reported Speech we often use *say (that)* and *tell sb (that)*. *That* may be omitted. We also use indirect objects (*me, us, etc.*)

'The match is great.' → *She **told me/said (that)** the match was great.*

'I felt dizzy.' → *He told me (that) he **had felt** dizzy.*

Tenses change in Reported Speech:

Direct Speech	→	Reported Speech
Present Simple Sam: 'I work.' 'Sue doesn't work.'	→	Past Simple Sam said (that) he worked. Sam said (that) Sue didn't work.
Present Continuous Sam: 'I'm working.' 'Sue isn't working.'	→	Past Continuous Sam said (that) he was working. Sam said (that) Sue wasn't working.
Present Perfect Sam: 'I've worked.' 'Sue hasn't worked.'	→	Past Perfect Sam said (that) he had worked. Sam said (that) Sue hadn't worked.
Past Simple Sam: 'I worked.' 'Sue didn't work.'	→	Past Perfect Sam said (that) he had worked. Sam said (that) Sue hadn't worked.
can Sam: 'I can work.' 'Sue can't work.'	→	could Sam said (that) he could work. Sam said (that) Sue couldn't work.

Pronouns and possessive adjectives also change:

'My brother has bought a new tennis racket.' → *She said that **her** brother had bought a new tennis racket.*

1 Match the sentence halves.

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Jason said he wasn't | ☐ |
| 2 Tracy told me she didn't | ☐ |
| 3 Daisy said she had | ☐ |
| 4 Liam told me he | ☐ |
- a have a dentist's appointment.
 b was checking his pulse.
 c feeling dizzy.
 d made bad choices.

2 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

- 'You are allergic to cats,' said the doctor.
The doctor told me _____.
- 'I came out in spots after using that cream,' said Daisy.
Daisy told us _____.
- 'I can't work out how to open the bottle of medicine,' said John.
John said _____.
- 'You've lost a lot of weight,' Dr Lund said to Magda.
Dr Lund told Magda _____.
- 'I practise meditation to reduce stress,' Morris told me.
Morris told me _____.
- 'I don't work out enough,' Tracy said to me.
Tracy told me _____.
- 'I'm not taking up tennis,' Richard said.
Richard said _____.
- 'I've got a runny nose,' said Phil.
Phil told us _____.

3 Rewrite the sentences in Direct Speech.

- Arthur said that the ice rink had been destroyed in the storm.
Arthur said: 'The ice rink _____ in the storm.'
- Joe told me he kept fit by jogging every day.
Joe said: 'I _____ every day.'
- Harriet said she didn't feel dizzy.
Harriet said: 'I _____ dizzy.'
- Judson told me that he was getting over the flu.
Judson said: 'I _____ the flu.'
- Maria told me she couldn't make difficult decisions.
Maria said: 'I _____ difficult decisions.'
- Alan said he had lost his appetite.
Alan said: 'I _____ appetite.'

4 Choose the correct option.

- I *said* / *told* you that I was allergic to mushrooms.
- Have I *said* / *told* I'm feeling a little stressed at the moment?
- Tammy *said* / *told* me you'd made a complaint.
- Luther *said* / *told* the doctor he had a pain in his chest.
- Mark and Jill both *said* / *told* they had to go to the dentist's today.

5 Correct the mistakes.

- Oli said me that he had passed out at the concert the day before, but he was feeling better now.
- Ewa told us didn't keep track of her diet, so she didn't know how much weight she'd lost.
- Hugh said he has broken his hand on the volleyball court last week.
- Rachel said she sick this morning, so decided to stay at home.
- Jack said he works all day today so he couldn't join us for lunch.
- I asked Olga about her favourite sport and she told she did yoga every day.