



Reported Statements

1. 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.

Direct speech .- Mike: I'm starving

Reported speech.-Mike said (that) he was starving

2. When the reporting verb is in the past the verb tense changes as in Spanish, except for the Imperative form.

Direct speech	Reported speech
Present Simple "I don't remember his name," she said.	Past Simple She said she didn't remember his name.
Present Continuous "She's speaking to Joe," he said	Past Continuous He said she was speaking to Joe
Present Perfect "I've bought you some flowers," she said	Past Perfect She said she had bought me some flowers.
Past Simple "He lost all the money," she said	Past Perfect She said that he had lost all the money.
Future "I'll see you later," he said	Conditional He said he would see me later.

There are no changes in verb tenses when :

a) the sentence expresses something which is always true.

Direct Speech : "The earth **is** round," said the teacher.

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

b) Conditional, Past Perfect and usually . The Past Continuous Direct speech :

Reported speech: "I **was travelling** to Brighton when I saw the accident,".

Reported speech : He said he **was travelling** to Brighton when he saw the accident.

3.- Pronouns and possessive adjectives change according to the meaning.

Direct speech : He said, " We will take our coats"

Reported speech : He said they would take their coats.

4. Certain words change as follows :

Direct speech : this/these, here, come

Reported speech: that/those, there, go

" I have bought this book here".

He said that he had bought that book there

Note that: can → could; will → would; may → might ; must → had to

5. Time expressions change as follows:

Direct speech	Reported speech
✓tonight, today, this week/month/.. now	✓that night, that day, that week/month/year
✓yesterday, last night/week/month/	✓then, at that time, (at once, immediately)
✓tomorrow, next week/month/year	✓the day before, the previous night/week/..
✓two days/months/years etc., ago	✓the day after, the following day, the next week
	✓two days/months/years etc., before

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

6.- Say and Tell

Tell needs the Indirect Object; this is who receives the Information

✓ He ~~told~~ he was very tired ☹ ✓ He told us he was very tired ☺

Say doesn't need the Indirect object, and if it is indicated it needs the preposition to in front.

✓ She said (that) she was very happy; ☺

✓ She said to us (that) she was very happy; ☺



PRODUCTION

Yesterday you met a friend of yours, Charlie. Charlie told you a lot of things. Here are some of the things he said to you:

- 1 I'm thinking of going to live in Canada.
- 2 My father is in hospital.
- 3 Nora and Jim are getting married next month.
- 4 I haven't seen Bill for a while.
- 5 I've been playing tennis a lot recently.
- 6 Margaret has had a baby.
- 7 I don't know what Fred is doing.
- 8 I hardly ever go out these days.
- 9 I work 14 hours a day.
- 10 I'll tell Jim I saw you.
- 11 You can come and stay with me if you are ever in London.
- 12 Tom had an accident last week but he wasn't injured.
- 13 I saw Jack at a party a few months ago and he seemed fine.

(Exercise taken from English Grammar in Use, by Raymond Murphy. Cambridge University Press)

Later that day you tell another friend what Charlie said. Use Reported Speech.

- 1.- Charlie said that he was thinking of going to live in Canada.
- 2.-
- 3.-
- 4.-
- 5.-
- 6.-
- 7.-
- 8.-
- 9.-
- 10.-
- 11.-
- 12.-
- 13.-

PRODUCTION .- YOU BROKE MY HEART

You are going to read a conversation between Julie and Mike. You overheard it and two days later you report it to a friend of yours.

Julie: Mike, I can't believe what Melissa has told me. I need to know if yesterday you went out with her.

Mike: It's true, Julie. Melissa is having big trouble with her family now and she doesn't know what to do. We are friends and whenever she needs me, I'll be around

Julie: I won't buy that lie. You're making excuses. You've hurt me, Mike. You have cheated on me with her.

Mike: You should believe me. You are acting as a child. You have always been too jealous, but this time you're going too far with your suspicions.

Julie: You're very good at lying. You know? We're history now. I don't want to see this stupid face of yours any more.

