THEME 8 SPORTS GRAMMAR

DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECHES

Direct Speech

Direct speech repeats, or quotes, the exact words spoken. When we use direct speech in writing, we place the words spoken between inverted commas ("....") and there is no change in these words. We may be reporting something that's being said NOW (for example a telephone conversation), or telling someone later about a previous conversation.

Reported Speech

Reported speech is usually used to talk about the past, so we normally change the tense of the words spoken. We use reporting verbs like *'say', 'tell', 'ask',* and we may use the word *'that'* to introduce the reported words. Inverted commas are not used.

TENSE CHANGES

Normally, the tense in reported speech is one tense back in time from the tense in direct speech:

The changes are shown below:

Simple present	→	**Simple past**
*"I always **drink** coffee", she said*		*She said that she always **drank** coffee.*
Present continuous	→	**Past continuous**
*"I **am reading** a book", he explained.*		*He explained that he **was reading** a book*
Simple past	→	**Past perfect**
*"Bill **arrived** on Saturday", he said.*		*He said that Bill **had arrived** on Saturday*
Present perfect	→	**Past perfect**
*"I **have been** to Spain", he told me.*		*He told me that he **had been** to Spain*
Past perfect	→	**Past perfect**
*"I **had just turned** out the light," he explained.*		*He explained that he **had just turned out** the light.*
Present perfect continuous	→	**Past perfect continuous**
*They complained, "We **have been waiting** for hours".*		*They complained that they **had been waiting** for hours.*
Past continuous	→	**Past perfect continuous**
*"We **were living** in Paris", they told me.*		*They told me that they **had been living** in Paris.*
Future	→	**Present conditional**
*"I **will be** in Geneva on Monday", he said*		*He said that he **would be** in Geneva on Monday.*
Future continuous	→	**Conditional continuous**
*She said, "**I'll be using** the car next Friday".*		*She said that she **would be using** the car next Friday.*

NOTE:

1. You do not need to change the tense <u>if the tense of the reporting verb is present or future</u>

*He <u>says</u> **he has missed** the train but **he'll catch** the next one.*

*We <u>will say</u> we **are preparing** for the party, so you **have** to come and help us.*

2. These modal verbs do not change in reported speech: *might, could, would, should, ought to, e.g.*

*We explained that it **could** be difficult to find our house.*

*She said that she **might** bring a friend to the party.*

CHANGE IN TIME AND PLACE REFERENCE

Time/place references are also changed in reported speech.

The most common of these changes are shown below:

Today	→	that day
Yesterday	→	the day before
The day before yesterday	→	two days before
Tomorrow	→	the next/following day
The day after tomorrow	→	in two days time/ two days later
Next week / month /year	→	the following week/month/year
Last week/month/year	→	the previous/week/month/year
Ago	→	before
This (for time)	→	that
Now	→	then / at that moment
This / That (adjectives)	→	the
Here	→	there

CHANGES IN PRONOUNS

In general, personal pronouns change to the third person singular or plural, except when the speaker reports his own words:

I/me/my/mine, you/your/yours → *he/she/him/his/her/hers*

we/us/our/ours, you/your/yours → *they/their/theirs:*

QUESTIONS:

1. The interrogative form of the verb changes to the affirmative form. The question mark (?) is therefore omitted in the indirect speech. Normal word order is used in reported questions, that is, the subject comes before the verb, and it is not necessary to use *'do'* or *'did'*:

"Where does Peter live?" → She asked him **where Peter lived**.

2. Tenses, pronouns and possessive adjectives and adverbs of time and place change as in statements.

3. If the introductory verb is **'said'**, it must be changed to a verb of inquiry: **ask, wonder, inquire, want to know**

Yes / no questions: This type of question is reported by using **'ask'** + *'if / whether* + **clause**:

a. "Do you speak English?" → He asked me **if I spoke English**.

b. "Are you British or American?" → He asked me **whether I was British or American.**

Question words:

This type of question is reported by using Reporting verb + Question word + Reported clause. The clause contains the question, in normal word order and with the necessary tense change.

Examples:

a. "What is your name?" he asked me. ⟹ He asked me **what my name was**.

b. "How old is your mother?" he asked. ⟹ He asked **how old her mother was**.

ORDERS, REQUESTS & SUGGESTIONS:

1. When we want to report an **order or request,** we can use a verb like *'tell'* **with a to-clause**.

Examples:

a. The doctor said to me, "Stop smoking!". ⟹ The doctor **told me to stop smoking**.

b. "Get out of the car!" said the policeman. ⟹ The policeman **ordered him to get out of the car**.

c. "Could you please be quiet," she said. ⟹ She **asked me to be quiet**.

d. The man with the gun said to us, "Don't move!" ⟹ The man with the gun **warned us not to move**.

Other verbs used to report orders and requests in this way are: *command, order, warn, ask, advise, invite, beg, teach, forbid*.

2. Requests for objects are reported using the pattern *ask + for + object*:

Examples:

a. "Can I have an apple?", she asked. ⟹ She *asked for an apple*.

c. "May I have a glass of water?" he said. ⟹ He **asked for a glass of water**.

d. "Sugar, please." ⟹ She **asked for the sugar**.

3. Suggestions are usually reported with a *that-clause. 'That'* and *'should'* are optional in these clauses:

She said: "Why don't you get a mechanic to look at the car?" ⟹ She suggested that I should get a mechanic to look at the car. **OR** She suggested I get a mechanic to look at the car.

Other reporting verbs used in this way are: *insist, recommend, demand, request, and propose*.

Examples:

a. "It would be a good idea to see the dentist", said my mother. ⟹ My mother **suggested I see** the dentist.

b. The dentist said, "I think you should use a different toothbrush". ⟹ The dentist **recommended that I should use** a different toothbrush.

d. "Why don't you sleep overnight at my house?" she said. ⟹ She suggested **that I sleep** overnight at her house

EXERCISES A. Rewrite the sentences using reported speech.

E.g. Miranda: "I really want to try paragliding this summer."

Miranda says that she really wants to try paragliding this summer.

1. Ethan: "Mary is aiming at a sports scholarship next year."

_____.

2. Ian: "You can enjoy all the water sports or just lie on the beach."

_____.

3. Mila: "My father has led a busy life engaging in a number of extreme sports."

_____.

4. Daisy: "The river in our town is the setting for a number of extreme sports, including rafting."

_____.

5. John: "My brother and I are into watching extreme sports, but we haven't tried any yet."

_____.

6. Sue: "I can't hide the joy on my face when I'm on my motorbike."

_____.

EXERCISES B. Complete the sentences with say or tell using the correct form.

1. The ski instructors _____ the beginners to strengthen their leg muscles before skiing.

2. My father _____ me that most scuba divers have a fantastic, positive attitude.

3. The surfer _____ that surfing allows you to enjoy the water atop a board.

4. The players _____ that tennis is a good sport for maintaining health, fitness, strength and agility.

5. The PE teacher _____ the students that basketball and football both involve physical power, but they also differ

in many other ways.

6. Bob _____ to me that football is the most popular sport in the world.

EXERCISES C. Rewrite the sentences using reported speech.

E.g. "The objective is to win with all the team, personal records are secondary." Lionel Messi

Lionel Messi said that the objective was to win with all the team, personal records were secondary.

1. "You don't stop running because you get old, you get old because you stop running." Chris McDougall

_____.

2. "I see football as an art and all the players are artists." Cristiano Ronaldo

_____.

3. "It feels amazing to inspire little kids to want to do gymnastics and have fun with it." Simone Biles

_____.

4. "Other golfers may outplay me from time to time, but they'll never outwork me." Tiger Woods

_____.

5. "My passion for surfing was greater than my fear of sharks." Bethany Hamilton

_____.

6. "I'm one of these people who likes adrenaline and new things like extreme sports." Gisele Bundchen

_____.