



Reported Speech (Indirect Speech)

If we report what another person has said, we usually do not use the speaker's exact words (direct speech), but reported (indirect) speech. Therefore, you need to learn how to transform direct speech into reported speech. The structure is a little different depending on whether you want to transform a statement, question or request.

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

Exercise 1:

Someone says something to you that's the opposite of what they told you earlier. Match the beginnings of these conversations with the correct endings.

1.	I'm going to Japan on holiday.
2.	He's a lawyer.
3.	She's had a baby girl.
4.	I haven't seen Bob for ages.
5.	I love these new boots.
6.	I only cheated in one exam.
7.	She doesn't speak French or Italian..
8.	He works in London.

a.	You said she'd had a boy.
b.	You admitted you cheated in all your exams.
c.	You told me he was a teacher.
d.	You told me she was fluent in both.
e.	You said you hated them.
f.	You said you were going on business.
g.	You told me his office was in Rome.
h.	You told me you'd seen him last week.

Exercise 2:

These are the exact words Frank said to you yesterday.

"I've just got engaged! We're getting married next year. We're going to Paris for our honeymoon. It's all going to be very expensive. Luckily, my friend is a photographer so he he'll take the photos for us. We'll be having the reception in my parents' back garden. My mum is baking the cake for us and my sister's band is playing free for us. I hope you'll come to the wedding."

Now you're telling your friend what Frank told you. Chose the correct option.

He said he (1) _____ just got engaged. He told me that he (2) _____ next year. He told me (3) _____ to Paris for their honeymoon. He mentioned that it (4) _____ very expensive. He said that his friend (5) _____ and he (6) _____ the photos for them. He mentioned that they (7) _____ the reception in his parents' garden. He admitted that (8) _____. He said his sister's band (9) _____. He said he (10) _____ I'd come to the wedding.