

Photocopiable activity 8A Reported speech

Student A

Report these last words from famous people to your partner.

Am I dying or is it my birthday?

Nancy Witcher Astor,
British politician (to her family sitting round her bed)

I am about to – or I am going to – die; either expression is correct.

Dominique Bouhours,
French grammarian

I have had a hell of a lot of fun and enjoyed every minute of it.

Errol Flynn,
Australian actor

I don't have the passion anymore and so remember it is better to burn out than fade away.

Kurt Cobain,
American musician

I have not told half of what I saw.

Marco Polo,
Italian explorer

Tomorrow I shall no longer be here.

Nostradamus,
French astrologer (to his assistant)

I have never felt better.

Douglas Fairbanks,
American actor (to his doctor)

My wallpaper and I are fighting a battle to the death. One or other of us has to go.

Oscar Wilde,
Irish author

I'm going away tonight.

James Brown,
American singer

Listen to your partner's quotes. If you don't know, guess! Choose from these answers.

- 1 Elvis Presley, American singer (at his last press conference)
- 2 Marie Antoinette, queen of France (to her executioner, as she unintentionally stepped on his foot)
- 3 Edmund Gwenn, British-American actor (to a friend who asked if dying was tough)
- 4 Thomas de Mahy, French aristocrat (to a court official, while reading his death sentence)
- 5 Lou Costello, American actor
- 6 Louis XIV, king of France
- 7 Quincy Adams, president of USA
- 8 H. G. Wells, British author
- 9 Salvador Dalí, Spanish painter