

Reported Speech

We use reported speech when we wish to report what someone else has said without using a direct quote. This can be useful when reporting on research or telling a story.

When we report what someone else has said we are **shifting our perspective of that speech**. Therefore, our language must reflect that shift in perspective.

There are 3 possible shifts that can occur in a quote that is being reported.

1. A change of pronouns
2. A change in tense
3. Changes to time phrases

Direct Quote:	Reported Speech:	Explanation
Richard said, "<u>I love learning</u> grammar." Richard said, "<u>I have had difficulty</u> with reported speech."	Richard said that he loved learning grammar. Richard said that he has had difficulty with reported speech.	1. Notice how the <u>pronoun</u> changes, to show who the original speaker was. When the pronoun changes the verb must agree in number. "I love" → He loves* "I have" → He has
Richard said, "<u>I lived</u> in France for five years." Sandy said, "<u>I am running</u> to class, but <u>I have forgotten</u> my homework."	Richard said that he had lived in France for five years. Sandy said that she was running to class, but she had forgotten her homework.	2. When the speech we are reporting uses past tense, we put it even more in the past. So, <u>simple past</u> become <u>past perfect</u>. "I lived" → He had lived "I am running" → I was running "I have forgotten" → I had forgotten
Richard said, "<u>I ate</u> chickpeas for dinner last night." Richard said, "<u>I drank</u> tea every night last month."	Richard said that he had eaten chickpeas for dinner the night before. Richard said that he had drunk tea every night the previous month.	3. Time phrases that originally indicate a relation to a specific time must also be changed so show an appropriate time. Last night → the night before Last month → the previous month

Look at the sentences below. Change them into reported speech. Discuss your answers with a tutor.

1. Lama said, "My mother speaks three languages fluently."

Lama said that _____ mother _____ three languages fluently.

2. Harry said, "Last month, I worked 100 hours."

Harry said _____

3. Sasha said, "I studied math at the Sorbonne last year."

Sasha told me _____

4. Erin said, "I tutored three students yesterday."

Erin indicated that _____

5. "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think." -Einstein

Einstein said _____

6. Barack Obama said to Americans, "Change will not come if we wait form some other person or some other time."

7. Inderpreet said "I am not addicted to playing video games."

8. "I will invent a motorized car that anyone can afford," said Henry Ford.

9. My mother said to me, "Someday, you will be a parent, and you will understand."

10. Richard said, "Lama, can you explain reported speech to me?"
