

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
<p>Richard said, "I love learning grammar."</p> <p>Richard said, "I have had difficulty with reported speech."</p>	<p>Richard said that he loved learning grammar.</p> <p>Richard said that he has had difficulty with reported speech.</p>	<p><i>Notice how the pronoun changes, to show who the original speaker was. When the pronoun changes the verb must agree in number.</i></p> <p>"I love" becomes He loves* "I have" becomes He has</p>
<p>Richard said, "I lived in France for five years."</p> <p>Sandy said, "I am running to class, but I have forgotten my homework. "</p>	<p>Richard said that he had lived in France for five years.</p> <p>Sandy said that she was running to class, but she had forgotten her homework.</p>	<p><i>When the speech we are reporting uses past tense, we put it even more in the past. So, simple past become past perfect.</i></p> <p>"I lived" becomes He had lived "I am running" becomes I was running "I have forgotten" becomes I had forgotten</p>

Direct Quote	Reported Speech	Explanation
Richard said, "I ate chickpeas for dinner last night. "	Richard said that he had eaten chickpeas for dinner the night before.	<i>Time phrases that originally indicate a relation to a specific time must also be changed so show an appropriate time.</i>
Richard said, "I drank tea every night last month. "	Richard said that he had drunk tea every night the previous month.	Last night <i>becomes</i> the night before Last month <i>becomes</i> the previous month

Practice:

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

*For screen reader users, the answer spaces is represented by a * sign.*

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. Rob Ford said "I am not addicted to crack cocaine".

*

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?"(Bonus)

*

Answers

(May vary depending on perspective)*

- 1. Lama said that her mother spoke three languages fluently.
- 2. Harry said that the previous month he worked 100 hours.
- 3. Sasha told me she studied at the Sorbonne the previous year.
- 4. Erin indicated that she tutored three students the day before.
- 5. Einstein stated that education was not the learning of facts, but the training....
- 6. Obama said change would not come if they waited for some other person or...
- 7. Rob Ford claimed he was not addicted to crack cocaine.
- 8. Henry Ford said he would invent a motorized car that anyone could afford.
- 9. My mother told me someday I would be a parent and I would understand.
- 10. Richard asked Lama to explain reported speech to him.*
- 10 (2). Richard asked Lama if she could explain reported speech to him.*

