

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

Reported Speech - Practice

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. 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)

COVER THIS AREA DURING PRACTICE



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.*
Richard asked Lama if she could explain reported speech to him.*