

REPORTED SPEECH

When we talk about what other people say, we use reported speech.

That

Time

Question

When we report somebody,
we use **that**.

I heard **that** Bill is going to
buy a house.



That

It is frequently used in reporting news.

NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump says **that** they don't want any conflict near the border.

When we report somebody, we follow the time and change the tense if necessary.

I **don't** really trust them.



She said that she **didn't** really trust them.



Time

We often change the tense in reported speech.

I work at a hospital.



She said that she worked at a hospital.



Present Simple



Past Simple

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
PRESENT SIMPLE	PAST SIMPLE
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	PAST CONTINUOUS
PRESENT PERFECT	PAST PERFECT
PAST SIMPLE	PAST SIMPLE/ PAST PERFECT
PAST CONTINUOUS	PAST CONTINUOUS/ PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS
FUTURE SIMPLE	WOULD

We also change adverbs of time accordingly.

I don't want to play games **tomorrow**.



She said that she didn't want to play games **the next day**.



But if the fact is **still** correct,
we don't change the tense.

Our teacher **said** that the
sun **rises** from the east.



Our teacher also **said**
that the lesson **starts**
at 7.



Note that
in reported speech,
we can omit **'that'**.

**E.g. They said (that)
it wasn't their fault.**

They said it wasn't their fault.

We use noun clause to report information questions.

Who are you?



You're asking me **who I am.**



Question

Exercises

1. The statement is clear. They _____ (say) that they _____ (allow) that in the future.
2. I wonder where Sue is. She said _____ (she/be) here at 8 o'clock.
3. Dan told/said me that he was bored with his job.
4. Do you know what they told me? They said they _____ (join) the meeting.
5. Really, what's the point here? She already said that the workers _____ (want) to be treated like this.

***Turn the sentences below into reported speech.**

1. 'I will not talk to you again.' _____
2. 'I've had enough of this.' _____
3. 'They're coming this way.' _____
4. 'I don't understand this show.' _____
5. 'Where were they?' _____

Answer Key

1. The statement is clear. They **said** (say) that they **wouldn't allow** (allow) that in the future.
2. I wonder where Sue is. She said **she would be** (she/be) here at 8 o'clock.
3. Dan **told**/said me that he was bored with his job.
4. Do you know what they told me? They said they **wouldn't join** (join) the meeting.
5. Really, what's the point here? She already said that the workers **didn't want** (want) to be treated like this.

***Turn the sentences below into reported speech.**

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. 'I will not talk to you again.' | S/he said (that) s/he wouldn't talk to me again. |
| 2. 'I've had enough of this.' | S/he said s/he had had enough of that. |
| 3. 'They're coming this way.' | S/he said they were coming that way. |
| 4. 'I don't understand this show.' | S/he said s/he didn't understand that show. |
| 5. 'Where were they?' | S/he asked where they were. |