REPORTED SPEECH

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



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

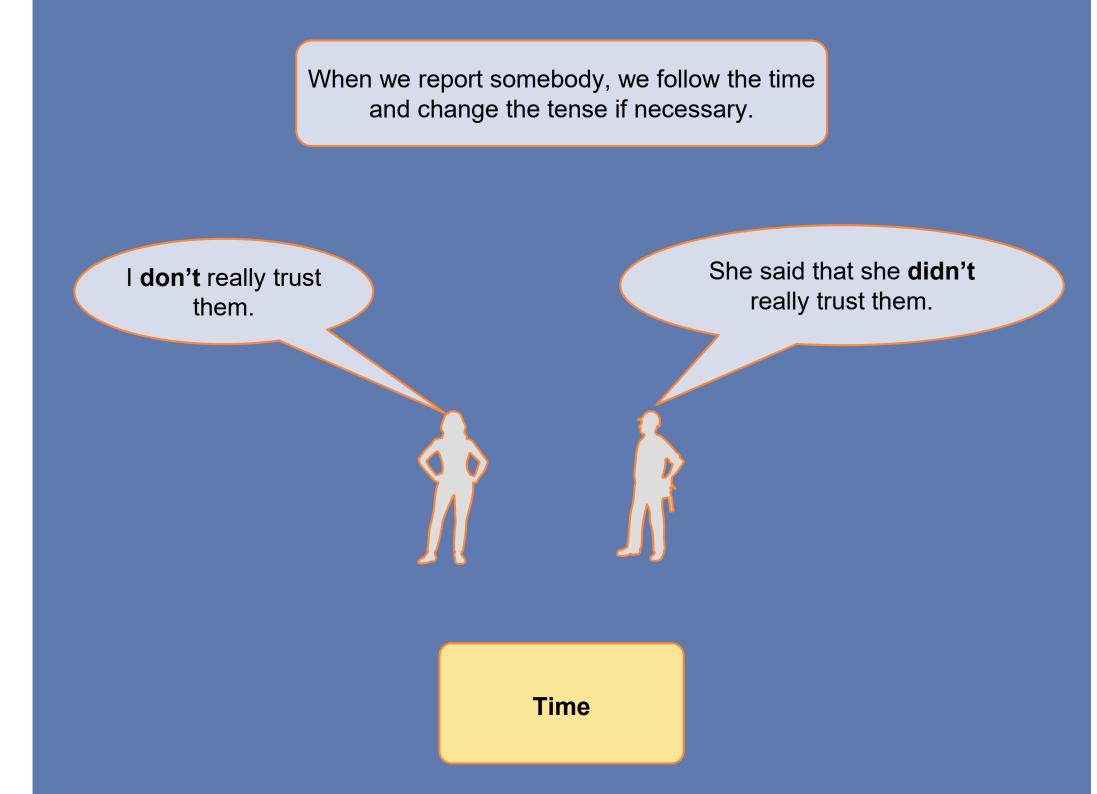
I heard **that** Bill is going to buy a house.

That

It is frequently used in reporting news.

NEW YORK TIMES

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



We often change the tense in reported speech.

I work at a hospital.

She said that she work**ed** 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.



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.

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.