

# 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.

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