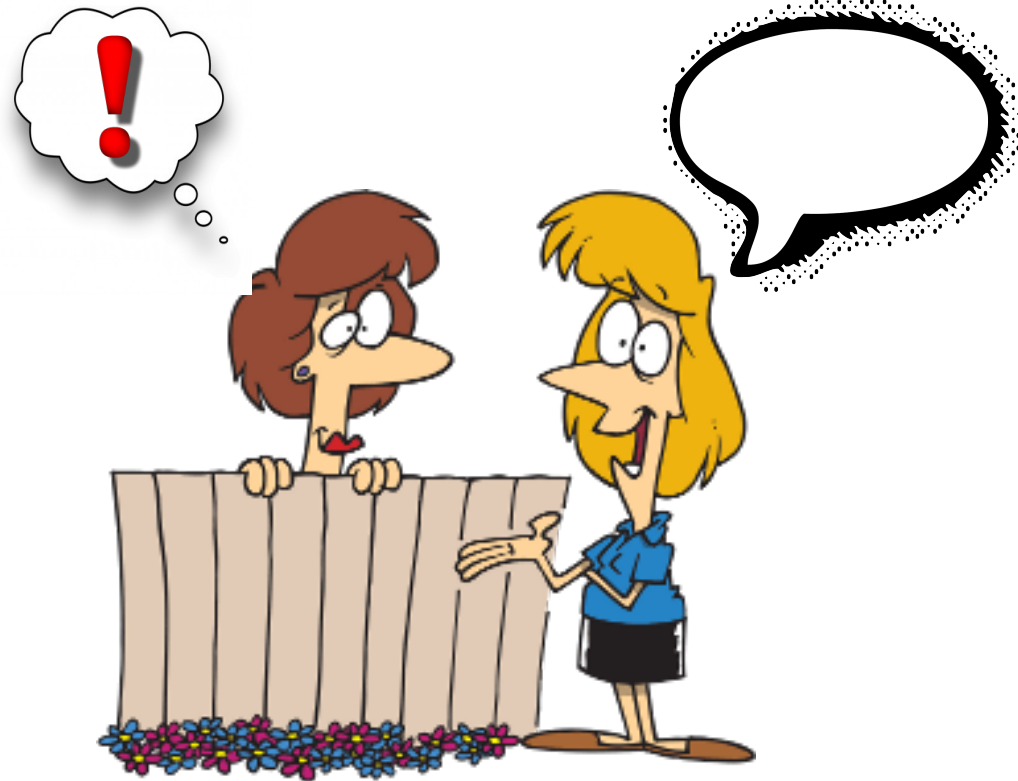


REPORTED SPEECH



by: thirdfloorenglish

Use

Use reported speech to talk about what another person said in the past.

Eve: 'I **went** to the party on Friday night'.

James: 'Eve said that she **had gone** to the party on Friday night'.



Backshifting

RULES

DIRECT SPEECH [Verb]

1. Simple Present
2. Present Continuous
3. Present Perfect
4. Present Perfect Continuous
5. Simple Past
6. Past Continuous
7. Past Perfect
8. Past Perfect Continuous

INDIRECT SPEECH [Verb]

1. Simple Past
2. Past Continuous
3. Past Perfect
4. Past Perfect Continuous
5. Past Perfect
6. Past Perfect Continuous
7. Past Perfect
8. Past Perfect Continuous

Backshifting

DIRECT SPEECH [Verb]

- 9. Future with "will"
- 10. Future with "going to"
- 11. Can
- 12. Must / Have to
- 13. May / Might
- 14. Should / Ought to

INDIRECT SPEECH [Verb]

- 9. Would
- 10. Was / Were going to
- 11. Could
- 12. Had to
- 13. might
- 14. Should / Ought to

Backshifting

TENSE CHANGE

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
will	would
can	could
must / have to	must or had to
may / might	might
should	should
ought to	ought to

REPORTED STATEMENTS

Simple present

*"I always **drink** coffee", she said*

Simple past

*She said that she always **drank** coffee.*

Present continuous

*"I **am reading** a book", he explained.*

Past continuous

*He explained that he **was reading** a book*

Simple past

*"I **broke** the glass", he admitted*

Past perfect

*He admitted (that) he **had broken** the glass.*

Present perfect

*"I **have been** to Spain", he told me.*

Past perfect

*He told me that he **had been** to Spain*

Time & Place

References to times or places in the past also may need to change when using reported speech, if that time or place are no longer the same.

Time		Place	
Now Ago	Then Before	Here	there
Today	that day	This town/ garden...	That town/ garden ...
Tomorrow	the following day OR the day after	These cities/ ...	Those cities/ ...
Yesterday	the previous day OR the day before		
Last week/ month/ ...	the previous week/ month ... OR the week before		
Next week / month/ ...	The following week / month OR the week/ month after		

Let's Practice

1. "I am going to the castle."
2. "I want to speak to the king."
3. "I can help get rid of the dragon."
4. "I am not afraid of a giant lizard."
5. "I have to find a good place to see the dragon."
6. "The dragon is much bigger than I thought."
7. "The dragon is coming towards me."
8. "I have never seen anything so frightening."
9. "I don't think I can slay the dragon."



The knight said that he *would* slay the dragon.

Let's Practice

Be careful with the pronouns

1 Report the statements.

1 'I'll miss you very much,' he said to her.

He told her he would miss her very much.

2 'I'm going to Berlin soon.'

She said _____.

3 'This film will be interesting.'

I thought _____.

4 'I can't help you because I have too much to do.'

She said _____.

5 'Daniel has bought the tickets.'

I was told _____.

6 'It's a stupid idea, and it won't work.'

She thought _____.

7 'We had terrible weather on holiday.'

He complained _____.

8 'We've never been to Croatia,' they said to me.

They told _____.

9 'But we want to go some day,' they said.

They added that _____.

Sometimes, if someone expresses an opinion, we use 'I think.'

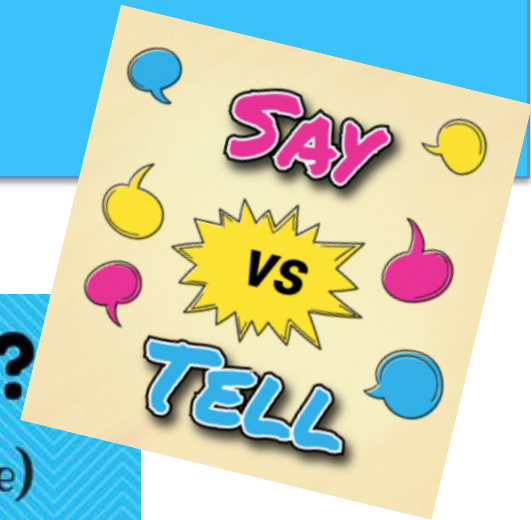
He thought it looked like his mother.



Try these:

- "It's a masterpiece."
- "It's a waste of money."
- "It looks like a rabbit."
- "It's a good thing."
- "It's too expensive."
- "It's quite cheap."
- "It's a waste of time."
- "It will be fun."
- "It will last a long time."

Say & Tell (1)



What's the difference?

SAY

Say + something (+ to someone)

Ron said something really funny to me.

Say + "that" clause

John said that he received good news.

Say + "wh-" noun clause

Jen didn't say when she would return.

Say + to + verb

My teacher always says to work hard.

TELL

Tell + someone + something.

Nobody told Jim about the meeting.

Sara told Bob the good news.

EXCEPTIONS: ● Tell + a lie ● Tell + a story
● Tell + the truth

Ben has never told a lie.

● Tell + the truth

Say & Tell (2)

SAY

Collocations

TELL

Say hello / goodbye /
good morning / good night

Say yes / no

Say something / nothing

Say thank you / you are welcome

Say a prayer

Say a word / a few words

Tell the truth / a lie

Tell a story / a tale

Tell a joke

Tell a secret

Tell the time / the future

Tell the difference

Say & Tell (3)



SAY hello, good morning/afternoon etc., something, nothing, so, a few words, no more, for sure/certain

TELL a story, a lie, a joke, a secret, the truth, the time, the difference, someone your name, someone the way, someone's fortune

ASK a question, a favour, the price, the time, for something, after somebody, around

SAY & TELL PRACTICE

A. Complete the sentences with **said** or **told**.

1. I _____ “hello” to him.
2. Louis _____ he was going away for the weekend.
3. I _____ her that she was a good student.
4. They _____ they were very sorry.
5. His aunt _____ him not to eat so many sweets.
6. They _____ that the buses were full.
7. He _____ them to be careful.
8. The adults _____ the children to be quiet.
9. He _____ she was late.
10. The shop assistant _____ the clients that the shop was going to close.



SAY & TELL PRACTICE (2)

1. I **told / said** “what a beauty”!
2. **Say / Tell** me all about it!
3. I **said / told** “who was that”?
4. I’m all right, I **say / tell** you!
5. That’s incredible! **Tell / Say** no more!
6. **Tell / Say** me the time by your watch.
9. Don’t **tell / say** me you have forgotten!
10. How can you **say / tell** which is the right one to use?
11. **Tell / Say** what you like. I’ve nothing to do with it!



To sum up:

1. Read the sentence.
2. Do the backshift.
3. Check the pronouns.
4. Check time & place (if you need to make any changes).
5. Check the use of Say & Tell.

