

Enter the World of Grammar

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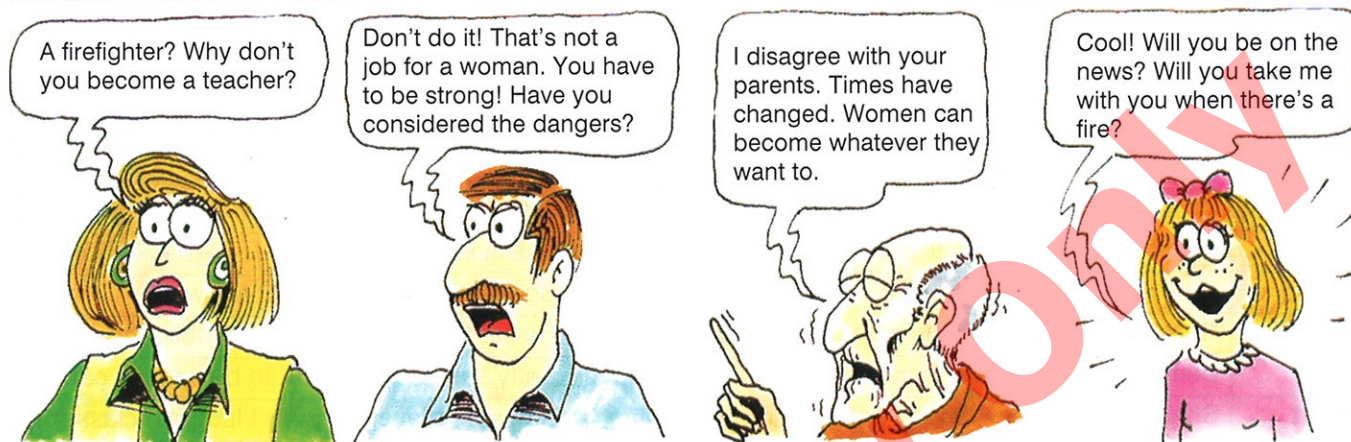
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Reported Speech



Interviewer: ... and what was your family's reaction when you told them you had decided to become a firefighter?

Sharon: Well, everyone was pretty surprised. My mother suggested I become a teacher. My father ordered me not to do it and said that it wasn't a job for a woman. He told me I had to be strong and asked me if I had considered the dangers. My grandfather was very understanding. He disagreed with my parents and said that times had changed and that women could become whatever they wanted to. My little sister wanted to know if I would be on the news and if I would take her with me when there was a fire.



- We use **Direct Speech** when we give the exact words that someone said. We usually use the verb **say** and the words are put in **quotation marks**.

She **said**, "I have a headache." **OR** "I have a headache," she **said**.

- We use **Reported Speech** when we repeat the **meaning** of what someone said, not the exact words.
She said that she had a headache.

Changing from Direct to Reported Speech

- We usually use the verbs **say** and **tell**, **without** quotation marks. We use **tell** when there is an **indirect object** (person) and **say** when there is **no indirect object**.

"I'm leaving," she **said**. → She **said** that she was leaving.

"I'm leaving, Kev," she **said**. → She **told Kev** that she was leaving.

● **That** is optional.

She said (**that**) she had left her bag on the train.

● We make the following changes in the tenses of the verbs:

DIRECT SPEECH		REPORTED SPEECH	
Present Simple	He said, "I work at a bank."	Past Simple	He said that he worked at a bank.
Present Progressive	"I 'm learning Spanish," she said.	Past Progressive	She said that she was learning Spanish.
Past Simple	He said, "Tony left ."	Past Perfect	He said that Tony had left .
Present Perfect	"I 've missed the train," Ted said.	Past Perfect	Ted said that he had missed the train.
Present Perfect Progressive	He said, "I 've been working for ten hours."	Past Perfect Progressive	He said he had been working for ten hours.
Will	Sheila said, "I ll be back soon."	Would	Sheila said that she would be back soon.
Can	"I can type well," she said.	Could	She said that she could type well.
May	"I may go on holiday," he said.	Might	He said that he might go on holiday.
Must	Betty said, "I must buy a new car."	Must/Had to	Betty said that she had to buy a new car.
Mustn't	She said, "I mustn't laugh in class."	Mustn't	She said that she mustn't laugh in class.
Would	He said, "I would like some coffee."	Would	He said that he would like some coffee.
Should	I said, "He should be here on time."	Should	I said that he should be there on time.

● **Time expressions** also change in Reported Speech.

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
now	then
today	that day
yesterday	the previous day / the day before
tomorrow	the next day / the following day
last week (month etc.)	the previous week (month etc.) / the week (month etc.) before
next week (month etc.)	the following week (month etc.)
ago	before

He said, "I won't meet Jane until tomorrow."

➔ He said that he wouldn't meet Jane until the following day.

She said, "I went on a business trip last week."

➔ She said that she had gone on a business trip the previous week.

● **Other changes:**

this	➔	that
these	➔	those
here	➔	there
come	➔	go

My mum said, "I have to put these clothes away."

➔ My mum said that she had to put those clothes away.

"I'm here," Bob said.

➔ Bob said that he was there.

● **Pronouns** and **Possessive adjectives** change according to the context.

He said, "I paid all **my** bills last month." ➔ He said that **he** had paid all **his** bills the previous month.

NOTE

There are no changes in Reported Speech:

● when the reporting verb is in a **Present, Future** or **Present Perfect Tense**.

She **says**, "I **ll go** to New York when I'm sixteen." ➔ She says that she **ll go** to New York when she's sixteen.

● when the sentence expresses a **general truth** or something that is **unlikely to change**.

She said, "The sun **sets** in the west." ➔ She said the sun **sets** in the west.

"I **prefer** history to maths," she said. ➔ She said that she **prefers** history to maths.

- The **Past Perfect** never changes in Reported Speech. The **Past Progressive** does not usually change. The **Past Simple** changes into **Past Perfect** in formal speech. In informal speech it can **change** or **remain the same**.

He said, "I **had come** back by 10:00 p.m." → He said that he **had come** back by 10:00 p.m..

"I **was speaking** on the phone while you **were listening** to music," she said. →

She said that she **was speaking** on the phone while I **was listening** to music.

"I **got** my school report yesterday," Rose said. → Rose said that she **got** / **had got** her school report the previous day.

- **Conditional Sentences Types 2, 3** and **wishes** do **not change** in Reported Speech.

"If I **found** a better job, I **would earn** more money," she said. →

She said that if she **found** a better job, she would **earn** more money.

Karen said, "If I **had gone** to sleep earlier, I **would have woken up** earlier." →

Karen said that if she **had gone** to sleep earlier, she **would have woken up** earlier.

"I wish I **could see** her again," he said. → He said that he wished he **could see** her again.



Questions

- In order to report questions we use the verbs **ask**, **wonder** and **want to know** as reporting verbs.
"What do you think about it?" she asked. → She **wondered** what I thought about it.
- Reported questions follow the word order of **affirmative sentences**: the subject is placed before the verb and we **don't use** the auxiliaries **do**, **does**, **did** and the **question mark**.
- If the direct question starts with a **question word**, the reported question also starts with the same question word.
She asked, "**What** are you going to do?" → She asked me **what** I was going to do.
- If the direct question does not start with a question word, the reported question starts with **if** / **whether**:
He asked, "Can I help you?" → He asked **if** he could help me.

Commands - Requests

We use the verbs **tell**, **ask**, **beg**, **order** etc. to report **commands**, **requests**, **suggestions**, **warnings** or **advice**. These verbs are followed by a **full infinitive** (affirmative) or **not + full infinitive** (negative).

The captain said, "Fasten your **seat belts**." → The captain **ordered** us **to fasten** our seat belts.

She said, "Don't listen to him, Mary." → She **told** Mary **not to listen** to him.

Other Reporting Verbs

Instead of **say** and **tell** we can also use:

- **refuse** / **offer** / **promise** + **full infinitive**
"I'll lend you the money you need," John said. → John **offered to lend** me the money I needed.
- **advise** / **ask** / **order** + **object** + **full infinitive**
"Get out of the car," said the policeman. → The policeman **ordered** the driver **to get** out of the car.
"Help me, please," she said. → She **asked** me **to help** her.
- **accuse sb of** / **complain to sb about** + **-ing form**
Bob said, "She stole the old woman's bag." → Bob **accused** her **of stealing** the old woman's bag.
- **complain** / **explain** / **promise** + **that-clause**
"You will have to write the composition on a piece of paper," the teacher said. →
The teacher **explained that** they would have to write the composition on a piece of paper.
"I will do the housework for you," she said. → She **promised that** she would do the housework for me.
- we can use a variety of structures with the verb **suggest**
Mark said, "Let's go to the zoo." →
suggest + **-ing form**: Mark suggested **going** to the zoo.
suggest + **that-clause**: Mark suggested (**that**) we **go** / **went** to the zoo.
suggest + **that** + **subject** + **should** + **verb**: Mark suggested (**that**) we **should go** to the zoo.



ACTIVITIES

A Discussion

In pairs discuss:

- what a stereotype is.
 - what your opinion of stereotypes is.
 - whether you think there have been any changes in the roles of men and women compared to what they were in the past. Think about occupations, who brings up children, who does the housework etc.
 - how you think the roles of men and women will change in the future.
- Then, report your partner's opinions to the class.

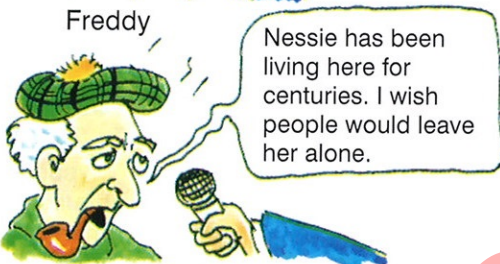
B Reporter Mark Searchy is in Scotland interviewing people about "Nessie", the Loch Ness Monster. Read what some people had to say and change what they said into **Reported Speech**.



Freddy

A friend of mine has shown me a picture of the Loch Ness Monster. It must be over 30 metres long.

Freddy said that a friend of his had shown him a picture of the Loch Ness Monster and



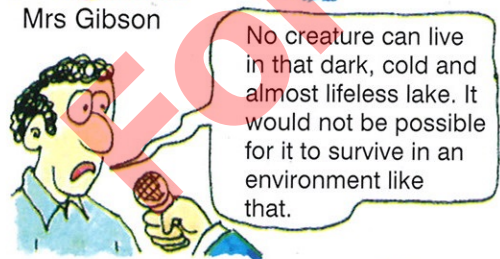
Mr Mc Alister

Nessie has been living here for centuries. I wish people would leave her alone.



Mrs Gibson

I don't believe any of the stories. They only exist to attract tourists.



Professor Harris

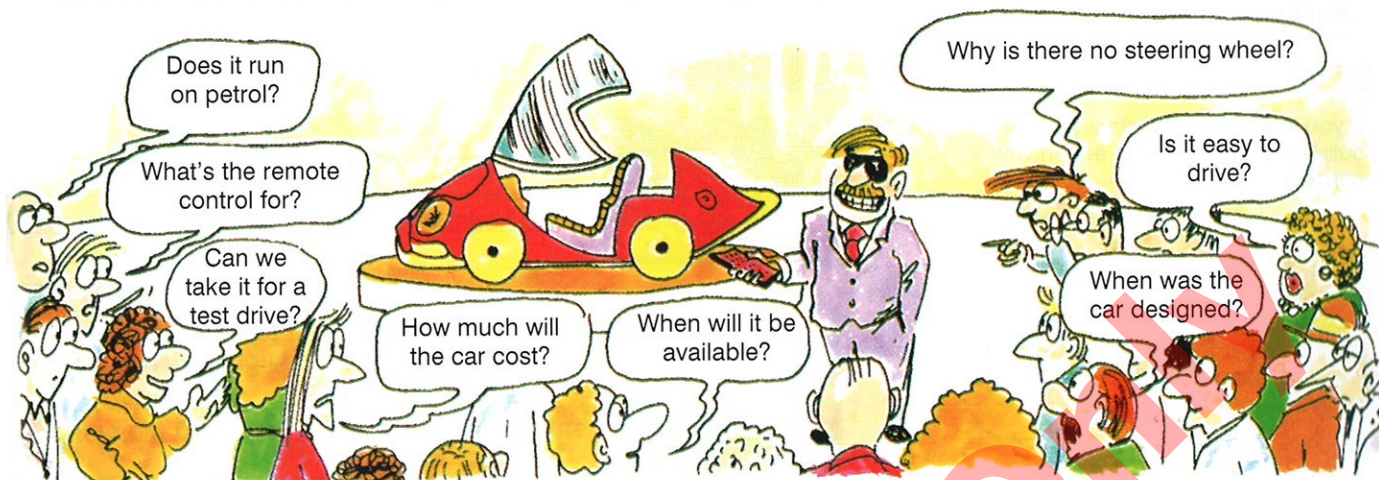
No creature can live in that dark, cold and almost lifeless lake. It would not be possible for it to survive in an environment like that.



Betty

I went to the lake yesterday, but I didn't see anything. I'm going back there tomorrow. Who knows, if I get there early, the Loch Ness Monster might appear.

C An inventor is presenting "The car of the future" at an exhibition. Match the people's questions to the inventor's answers and change them into **Reported Speech**, as in the example.



1. *A man asked if it ran on petrol.*

The inventor said it didn't run on petrol but on batteries.

2. _____

The inventor said that the car would cost \$100 000.

3. _____

The inventor explained that the remote control helped you to park the car.

4. _____

The inventor told the man that it would be available in a month's time.

5. _____

The inventor said that the car had been designed three years before but that it had actually been made the previous year.

6. _____

The inventor explained that there was no steering wheel because a computer was programmed to steer it automatically.

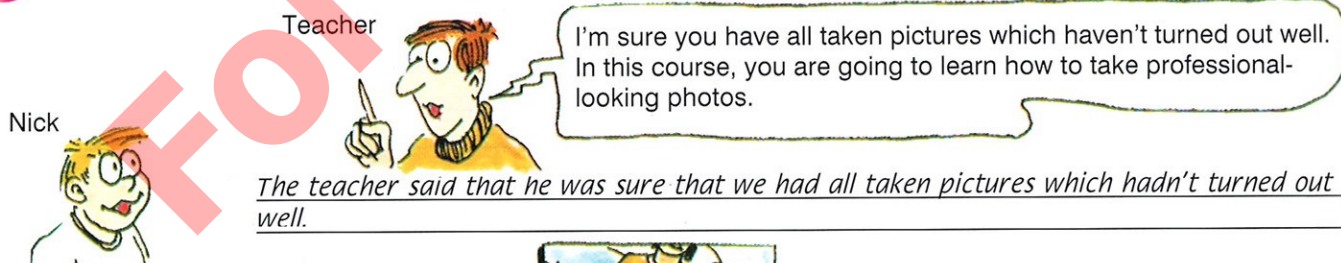
7. _____

The inventor said that they could take it for a test drive when he had finished the presentation.

8. _____

The inventor told her that it was very easy to drive.

D Nick attended a course in photography. Rewrite what his teacher said in **Reported Speech**.



The teacher said that he was sure that we had all taken pictures which hadn't turned out well.

Frame your picture carefully, otherwise you'll cut off heads and legs.



Do not take pictures of your subject from too far away because the background will dominate the picture.



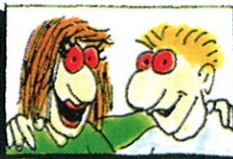
You shouldn't take pictures of your subject with the sun facing you. The sun should always be behind you.



If you want to take a clear picture of a moving subject, then follow the action with your camera.



Do you notice anything wrong with this picture? The people's eyes are red. If the people in this picture hadn't been looking straight at the camera when the flash went off, their eyes wouldn't have come out red.



E Read the advice that a vet is giving to Shirley. Rewrite it in **Reported Speech** using **tell**, **ask** and **order**.

Don't touch a dog that you don't know. Hold out your hand and let the dog come to you.

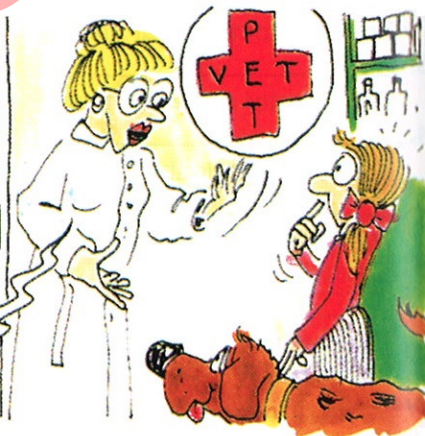
Don't stare at a dog straight in the eyes. This can make it feel uneasy.

Always avoid sudden noises or movements as this may scare them.

If you are scared of a dog, don't scream and run. It will probably chase after you. Slowly walk away and avoid eye contact.

You shouldn't tease dogs! It can make them angry.

Don't disturb a dog when it's eating or sleeping!



The vet told Shirley not to touch a dog that she didn't know.

F Change the following sentences into **Reported Speech**. Use one of the reporting verbs in the box, as in the example.

promise
suggest

~~offer~~
refuse

order
explain

complain
ask

advise
accuse

1. "Let me help you change the tyre, Jack," Diana said.

Diana offered to help Jack change the tyre.

2. "You had better see a dentist before your toothache gets worse, Penny," Lucy said.