

DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECH

ACTIVITY TYPE

Reading, Writing, Grammar,
Exercises

LANGUAGE FOCUS

DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECH

AIM

To learn and practice DIRECT AND
REPORTED SPEECH in English

LEVEL

Intermediate, Advanced,

TIME

INTRODUCTION

After going through your regular review and teacher talk, tell the students that they're going to learn the use of DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECH in English

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student

PROCEDURE

Give one copy of the worksheet to each student.
Go through the grammar and exercises together.

DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECH

You can answer the question "What did he/she say?" in two ways:

- by repeating the words spoken (direct speech)
- by reporting the words spoken (indirect or reported speech).

Direct Speech

Direct speech repeats, or quotes, the exact words spoken. When we use direct speech in writing, we place the words spoken between inverted commas ("...") and there is no change in these words. We may be reporting something that's being said NOW (for example a telephone conversation), or telling someone later about a previous conversation

Examples:

She says "What time will you be home?"



*She said "What time will you be home?"
and I said "I don't know!"
"There's a fly in my soup!" screamed Simone.
John said, "There's an elephant outside the
window."*

Reported Speech

Reported speech is usually used to talk about the past, so we normally change the tense of the words spoken. We use reporting verbs like *'say', 'tell', 'ask'*, and we may use the word *'that'* to introduce the reported words. Inverted commas are not used.

*She said, "I saw him." → She said **that she had seen him.***

- *That* may be omitted:

She told him that she was happy.

She told him she was happy.

- *Say* and *tell*:

Use *'say'* when there is no indirect object:

He said that he was tired.

Always use *'tell'* when you say who was being spoken to
(i.e. with an indirect object):

He told me that he was tired.

'Talk' and *'speak'* are used:

- to describe the action of communicating:

He talked to us.

She was speaking on the telephone.

- with *'about'* to refer to what was said:

He talked (to us) about his parents.

Reported Speech Exercises

DIRECT	REPORTED	DIRECT	REPORTED
is seeing	was seeing	here	there
sees	saw	this	that
saw	saw/had seen	these	those
has seen	had seen	now	then
will see	would see	today	that day
is going to see	was going to see	yesterday	The previous day
can see	could see	tomorrow	the next day

Convert the phrases below into reported speech.

"It's raining," she said.

1 _____

He said to her, "I love you."

2 _____

"I saw María in the supermarket yesterday," said Carlos.

3 _____

"We've lived here for three years," he said.



4 _____

"I'll bring a pasta salad," said Francesca.

5 _____

"Mark's going to install solar panels," said Miranda.

6 _____

"They found gold here," said the geology teacher.

7 _____

"Jenny can't speak French," said Pierre.

8 _____

"I first met my wife in Seville," he told us.

9 _____

"I want your homework handed in by tomorrow," he said.

10 _____

"My mother made these cakes," said Juan.

11 _____

"I'm feeling tired now," said David.

12 _____