

# Reported Speech Soccer

## AN ACTIVITY FOR TEACHING REPORTED SPEECH

The main activity for this section is Reported Speech Soccer. The game is really meant for small groups (between 2 and 8) as it is essential that the teacher referees.

*The game goes as follows:*

- (1) The teacher prints a set of quotation cards (see Soccer Cards Below) and a game board. The quotation cards should be pasted onto cardboard and cut out.
- (2) Print the Reported Speech Activity Sheets and go through them. These explain the Reported Speech in English.

**Then you can start with the game:**

(3) The class is divided into two teams (or the whole class can play as one team against the teacher).

(4) Teacher places a marker on the soccer field to represent a soccer ball.

(5) There are three ways the teacher can proceed from here:

(a) If it is the first game, the teacher can flip over a quotation card and the student whose turn it is reads the quote and reports what was said, heard, read, or thought.

For example, if the card say "it's a beautiful day" then the student will say, "He/she said that it was a beautiful day." Every card has been designed so that the student can easily identify the pattern that is required.

(b) Once the students get good at it, the teacher can just read the card to the student instead of flipping it over and letting the student read.

The teacher will have to act out the card as well.

For example, if it's a 'whisper' card, then the teacher will whisper the quotation and the student will have to say, "He/she whispered that ..."

(c) The third way is to have one student pick up a quotation card and read it to his/her partner. The partner then must report to the teacher what was said.

In both (b) and (c) above it is important to get a set of gestures down to help the student who is listening guess which pattern is required.

For example, if the pattern is "heard that" then the student who is speaking should put his/her hand to his/her ear and read out the quote. If the pattern is "yell that", the student can make a clenched fist and read the quote loudly. Both "think that" and "wonder if/what" can be done with a finger tapping on the temple of the head.

(6) If the student correctly reports what was in the quotation, the soccer ball advances one space (one player) closer to the opposing net. If the student makes even the slightest mistake then the ball moves one space closer to his or her own net. Alternate between players from each team.

(7) If you decide to have the whole class play against the teacher, the teacher will go around the group and they will try one at a time to report what was said. If the student reports correctly, the ball moves towards the teacher's goal. If the student makes a mistake, then the ball moves towards the students' goal.