

What is Reported Speech?

Worksheet

Reported speech presents someone's words indirectly using a reporting clause (like 'he said that') and adjusting tense, pronouns and time expressions. Direct: 'I am happy.' Reported: He said he was happy.

Questions

1. 'I have finished my homework,' Tom said. Report it.
A) Tom said he finishes his homework
B) Tom said he has finished his homework
C) Tom said he had finished his homework
D) Tom said he finished his homework
2. Which is NOT a reporting verb?
A) say
B) tell
C) think
D) discuss
3. 'I will call you tomorrow,' she said. Report it.
A) She said she will call me tomorrow
B) She said she would call me the next day
C) She said she calls me tomorrow
D) She said she called me tomorrow
4. Why do pronouns change in reported speech?
A) For variety in writing
B) To reflect the listener's perspective
C) Grammar rule with no reason
D) To make sentences shorter
5. Convert to reported speech: 'I love this book,' said Sarah.
6. Convert: 'Are you coming tomorrow?' she asked.
7. Convert: 'I will finish this project,' he promised.
8. Define: What is reported speech?
9. Define: How does tense shift in reported speech?
10. Define: Example of direct vs reported

Answer Key

1. C) Tom said he had finished his homework — Past perfect 'had finished' is correct because the original is present perfect, shifted one step back.
2. D) discuss — 'Discuss' is a regular verb; say, tell and think introduce reported speech.
3. B) She said she would call me the next day — Future 'will' → conditional 'would', and 'tomorrow' → 'the next day'.
4. B) To reflect the listener's perspective — Pronouns change because the report is from a third-party's viewpoint, not the original speaker's.
5. Identify: direct speech with 'said' Shift: present 'love' → past 'loved' Adjust: I → she Result: Sarah said she loved that book.
6. Identify: question with 'asked' Shift: present 'are' → past 'were' Adjust: you → I (from listener's view) or he/she Result: She asked if I was coming the next day.
7. Identify: future 'will' with 'promised' Shift: will finish → would finish (future→conditional) Adjust: I → he Result: He promised he would finish that project.
8. Conveying someone's words indirectly using a reporting verb and adjusting tense, pronouns, and expressions.
9. Tense moves back one step: present → past, past → past perfect (usually).
10. Direct: 'I am tired.' Reported: She said she was tired.

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