

Reported Speech

1. Decide if the following statements are True [T] or False [F].

- a) When we use reported speech, the reporting verb is usually in the past, e.g. Linda *said*.
- b) The rest of the sentence is usually in the past too, e.g. *Linda said humanity had lost many of its values*.
- c) The only reporting verbs there are in English are *say* and *tell*.
- d) *tell, ask, comment, confirm, mention, explain, refer, inform, instruct, order, state, request, etc.* are examples of other reporting verbs.
- e) We use *say* when we don't mention the person we are talking to, e.g. "Linda *said* she felt disappointed."

2. Decide if the following statements are True [T] or False [F].

- a) In reported questions the word order doesn't change (it's the same as in the questions), e.g. "Linda asked us what *we were going* to do."
- b) In reported questions we maintain the question words (what, where, when...), e.g. "Linda wanted to know *who* had been discriminated against."
- c) We use *if* or *whether* where there is no other question word, e.g. "Paul asked *if / whether* I was willing to change my attitude."

3. Match accordingly.

In Reported Speech the *time expressions* change.

Match the words in Direct Speech on the left with the words in Reported Speech on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1- tonight | a) that night |
| 2- now/at the moment | b) that day |
| 3- tomorrow | c) then/at that moment |
| 4- next week/month | d) the day before |
| 5- yesterday | e) the following day |
| 6- today | f) the following week/month |

4. Match accordingly.

In Reported Speech the *verb tenses* change.

Match the Direct Speech on the left with the Reported Speech on the right.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1- <i>Present Perfect Continuous</i> - I have been feeling lonely. | a) <i>Past Perfect</i> - He said he had turned to drugs to forget his problems. |
| 2- <i>Future</i> - I'll (will) put an end to his arrogance right now. | b) <i>Infinitive</i> - He told her not to give in and to find a friend. |
| 3- <i>Past Simple</i> - I turned to drugs to forget my problems. | c) <i>Conditional</i> - He said he'd (would) put an end to his arrogance at that moment. |
| 4- <i>Imperative</i> - Don't give in. Find a friend! | d) <i>Past Perfect Continuous</i> - He said he had been feeling lonely. |

5. Match accordingly.

Match the questions in Direct Speech on the left with the Reported Questions on the right.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1- Tracy said, "Aren't you sick and tired of Peter's attitude?" | a) Tracy wanted to know <i>if / whether I was</i> sick and tired of Peter's attitude. |
| 2- Clare said, "Do you have to be so aggressive?" | b) Clare asked <i>if / whether I had</i> to be so aggressive. |
| 3- John said, "Can you hear me?" | c) John wanted to know <i>if / whether I could</i> hear him. |

6. Match accordingly.

In Reported Speech the *verb tenses* change.

Match the Direct Speech on the left with the Reported Speech on the right.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1- <i>Present Perfect</i> - I have experienced a lot of pain. | a) <i>Past Continuous</i> - He said he was going to influence teenagers' way of thinking positively. |
| 2- <i>Present Continuous</i> - I am going to influence teenagers' way of thinking positively. | b) <i>Past Perfect</i> - He said he had experienced a lot of pain. |
| 3- <i>Present Simple</i> - I miss being among my people. | c) <i>Past Simple</i> - He said he missed being among his people. |

7. Match accordingly.

Match the questions in Direct Speech on the left with the Reported Questions on the right.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1- John said, "How long have you been living abroad?" | a) My parents asked us where <i>we were going</i> . |
| 2- My parents asked us, "Where <i>are you going</i> ?" | b) Tracy wondered why <i>I wasn't living</i> at home anymore. |
| 3- Tracy said, "Why aren't you living at home anymore?" | c) John wanted to know how long <i>I had been</i> living abroad. |

8. Match accordingly.

In Reported Speech the *verb tenses* change.

Match the Direct Speech on the left with the Reported Speech on the right.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1- <i>Present Perfect Continuous</i> - I have been living each day at a time. | a) <i>Past Perfect</i> - He said he had given up trying. |
| 2- <i>Present Simple</i> - I am finally free of serious problems. | b) <i>Past Simple</i> - He said he was finally free of serious problems. |
| 3- <i>Present Perfect</i> - I have lived in many countries. | c) <i>Past Perfect</i> - He said he had lived in many countries. |
| 4- <i>Present Continuous</i> - I am living a respectful life. | d) <i>Conditional</i> - He said he'd (would) never abuse drugs despite his problems. |

5- *Future* - I'll (will) never abuse drugs despite my problems.

6- *Imperative* - Have a healthy life and don't judge other people.

7- *Past Simple* - I gave up trying.

e) *Past Continuous* - He said he was living a respectful life.

f) *Past Perfect Continuous* - He said he had been living each day at a time.

g) *Infinitive* - He told him to have a healthy life and not to judge other people.

9. Match accordingly.

Match the words in Direct Speech on the left with the words in Reported Speech on the right.

1- my

2- we

3- this / these

4- I

5- here

6- our

a) they

b) he / she

c) his / her

d) their

e) that / those

f) there

10. Answer correctly.

Change the sentences from Reported Speech to Direct Speech. Don't forget to use "".

a) He said he had spent the previous year abroad.

b) She asked Phil to trust her.

c) He told me not to quit.

11. Answer correctly.

Report the sentences using the words given.

a) I have truly changed!

She said (...).

b) Now I am doing something for other people for a change.

He told me (...).

c) I have been going to Human Rights meetings.

She said (...).

12. Answer correctly.

Report the questions using the words given.

a) "Are you willing to give up your old ways?"

She asked me (...).

b) "Do you have any plans for the future?"

She wanted to know (...).

c) "Will you behave like this forever?"

He asked me (...).

13. Answer correctly.

Report the sentences using the words given.

a) "Tell me your problems!"

She told Shawn (...).

b) "Last year I was invited to inform teenagers about Human Rights."

She said (...).

c) "I think you should confide in someone."

He told me (...).

14. Answer correctly.

Report the sentences using the words given.

a) You don't realise the effects of your selfishness.

He said she (...).

b) I was extremely weak.

She said (...).

c) I can't stop thinking about all the people I hurt.

He told me (...).

15. Answer correctly.

Report the questions using the words given.

a) "Where has Tom gone?"

She asked me if / whether I knew (...).

b) "How long have you been back?"

She wanted to know (...).

c) "When did you start caring so much for other people?"

He asked me (...).

Reported Speech

Answer Key

1. a) T; b) T; c) F; d) T; e) T.

2. a) F; b) T; c) T.

3. 1- b); 2- c); 3- d); 4- a); 5- c); 6- d).

4. 1- b); 2- c); 3- d); 4- a).

5. 1- b); 2- c); 3- d).

6. 1- b); 2- c); 3- d).

7. 1- b); 2- c); 3- d).

8. 1- b); 2- c); 3- d); 4- a); 5- c); 6- d); 7- d).

9. 1- b); 2- c); 3- d); 4- a); 5- c); 6- d).

10.

a) I spent last year abroad.

b) Trust me. / Trust me!

c) Don't quit. / Do not quit!

11.

a) she had truly changed.

b) then he was doing something for other people for a change. / at the time he was doing something for other people for a change. / that he was doing something for other people for a change.

c) she had been going to Human Rights meetings.

12.

a) if I was willing to give up my old ways. / whether I was willing to give up my old ways.

b) if I had any plans for the future. / whether I had any plans for the future.

c) if I would behave like that forever. / whether I would behave like that forever.

13.

a) to tell her his problems.

b) the previous year she had been invited to inform teenagers about Human Rights. / she had been invited to inform teenagers about Human Rights the previous year.

c) he thought I should confide in someone.

14.

- a) didn't realise the effects of selfishness. / didn't realise the effects of her selfishness.
- b) she was extremely weak. / she had been extremely weak.
- c) he couldn't stop thinking about all the people he had hurt / he couldn't stop thinking about all the people he hurt.

15.

- a) where Tom had gone.
- b) how long I had been back.
- c) when I had started caring so much for other people.