

Reported Speech Exercises

Level: B1

Report what someone said

Reported speech tells another person about words said earlier. After *said* or *told* in the past, we often move a present tense one step back and change pronouns and time words.

Statements: *I am tired* → *She said (that) she was tired*. The word *that* is optional.

Tell: Use *told* with a person: *She told me that she was tired*. Use *said* without an object: *She said that she was tired*.

Backshift: Present simple → past simple; present continuous → past continuous; *will* → *would*; *can* → *could*.

Time and place: When reporting later, *today* may become *that day*, *tomorrow* → *the next day*, and *here* → *there*.

Questions: Use statement order after *asked*: *Where do you live?* → *She asked where I lived*. Do not keep *do* or a question mark.

Exercise 1: Choose the reported form

Choose the standard reported form. For statements, use backshift when reporting later.

- Mia said, "I am tired." Mia said that she ____.
a) was tired b) is tired c) tired
- Leo said, "I work here." Leo said that he ____ there.
a) works b) worked c) would work
- Ana said, "I will help." Ana said that she ____ help.
a) will b) could c) would
- Tom said, "I can swim." Tom said that he ____ swim.
a) could b) can c) would
- Choose the sentence with *told* used correctly.
a) She told that she was late. b) She told me that she was late. c) She said me that she was late.
- Nina asked, "Where do you live?" Nina asked where I ____.
a) did lived b) do lives c) lived

Exercise 2: Complete the report

Write the changed verb or time expression. Imagine you are reporting later.

- "I am hungry." → He said that he ____ hungry. (am → ?)
- "We are waiting." → They said that they ____ waiting. (are → ?)

9. "I will leave." → She said that she ___ leave. (will → ?)
10. "I can drive." → Ben said that he ___ drive. (can → ?)
11. "I like this place." → Jo said that she ___ that place. (like → ?)
12. "I will visit tomorrow." → She said that she would visit ___. (tomorrow → ?)

Exercise 3: Report the whole sentence

Report the words later using the given start. Change pronouns, tenses and time words where needed.

13. Mia said, "I live here."
Mia said _____
14. Sam said, "I am working today."
Sam said _____
15. Ana said, "I will call tomorrow."
Ana said _____
16. Leo said to me, "I can help you."
Leo told me _____
17. Nina asked me, "Where do you live?"
Nina asked _____
18. Ben asked me, "Are you ready?"
Ben asked _____

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the reported form

1. a) was tired
2. b) worked
3. c) would
4. a) could
5. b) She told me that she was late.
6. c) lived

Exercise 2: Complete the report

7. was
8. were
9. would
10. could
11. liked
12. the next day / the following day

Exercise 3: Report the whole sentence

13. Mia said that she lived there.
14. Sam said that he was working that day.
15. Ana said that she would call the next day.
16. Leo told me that he could help me.
17. Nina asked where I lived.
18. Ben asked if I was ready.