



MORE ABOUT REPORTED SPEECH

As you previously learned in chapter 8, people are constantly reporting what someone else said or what they have heard on the news or the radio and also when they overhear a conversation. To report all these events, we use the past tense of the verbs **to say** and **to tell**. We use the verb to tell when we are reporting a personal conversation or when the speaker has mentioned our name. Below, we have a list of different examples highlighting the change in for the reported speech.

What is said in:

Simple Present Tense

We are tired.

I don't like potatoes.

Simple Past Tense

I didn't go to the movies last week.

We were away last month.

Nobody came to the party.

Present Perfect Tense

I have never been to Rome.

We haven't heard from Peter in years.

What is said using "can"

I can sleep very well.

We can talk about this later.

What is said using "will"

She will be here soon.

I will call you right back.

What is said using "must"

I must pay for the rent tomorrow.

We must go or else will be late.

What is said using "may"

She may get married soon.

We may get the job.

Is reported in:

Simple Past Tense

They said they were tired.

He/she said that he/she did not like potatoes.

Past Perfect Tense

He/she said that he/she hadn't gone to the movies.

They said that they had been away the month before.

He/she said that nobody had come to the party.

Past Perfect tense

He/she said that he/she had never been to Rome.

They said that they hadn't heard from Peter in years.

Is reported using "could"

He/she said that he/she could sleep very well.

They said that we could talk about that later.

Is reported using "would"

He/she said that he/she would be here soon.

He/she said that he/she would call me right back.

Is reported using "had to"

He/she said that he/she had to pay the rent the next day.

They said they had to go or else they would be late.

Is reported using "might"

They said that she might get married soon.

They said that they might get the job.



Use phrases like: “**told me that**”, “**said that**”, “**asked me if**”, or “**ordered me**” to report what someone else said to you or told you. Don’t forget to apply the rules for reported speech.

1. **Peter:** Do you know what time it is?

2. **Sheila:** Can you work for me next Saturday?

3. **Your mom:** Stay at home and do your homework.

4. **Your father:** Go to the store and buy some milk.

5. **The Teacher:** We will finish the lesson tomorrow.

6. **Mark:** Do you want to go to the movies with me?

7. **Joe:** Can you drive a car?

8. **Your neighbor:** I always wake up at 5:00 A.M.

9. **Your boss:** Did you finish the report?

10. **Charlie:** Were you at the party?

11. **Steve:** Did you buy the newspaper?

12. **Richard:** Where do you live?
