

REPORTED SPEECH

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Abstract: Reported speech or indirect speech is the form of speech used to convey what was said by someone at some point of time. This article will help you with all that you need to know about reported speech, its meaning, definition, how and when to use them along with examples.

Key words: Reported speech, direct speech, Past, Present, Perfect, said.

Reported speech is the form in which one can convey a message said by oneself or someone else, mostly in the past. It can also be said to be the third person view of what someone has said. In this form of speech, you need not use quotation marks as you are not quoting the exact words spoken by the speaker, but just conveying the message.

P Reported speech, according to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, is defined as "a report of what somebody has said that does not use their exact words." The Collins Dictionary defines reported speech as "speech which tells you what someone said, but does not use the person's actual words." According to the Cambridge Dictionary, reported speech is defined as "the act of reporting something that was said, but not using exactly the same words." The Macmillan Dictionary defines reported speech as "the words that you use to report what someone else has said."

Reported speech is a little different from direct speech. As it has been discussed already, reported speech is used to tell what someone said and does not use the exact words of the speaker. Take a look at the following rules so that you can make use of reported speech effectively.

- The first thing you have to keep in mind is that you need not use any quotation marks as you are not using the exact words of the speaker.
- You can use the following formula to construct a sentence in the reported speech.
- You can use verbs like said, asked, requested, ordered, complained, exclaimed, screamed, told, etc. If you are just reporting a declarative sentence,

you can use verbs like told, said, etc. followed by 'that' and end the sentence with a full stop. When you are reporting interrogative sentences, you can use the verbs – enquired, inquired, asked, etc. and remove the question mark. In case you are reporting imperative sentences, you can use verbs like requested, commanded, pleaded, ordered, etc. If you are reporting exclamatory sentences, you can use the verb exclaimed and remove the exclamation mark. Remember that the structure of the sentences also changes accordingly.

- Furthermore, keep in mind that the sentence structure, tense, pronouns, modal verbs, some specific adverbs of place and adverbs of time change when a sentence is transformed into indirect/reported speech.

As discussed earlier, when transforming a sentence from direct speech into reported speech, you will have to change the pronouns, tense and adverbs of time and place used by the speaker. Let us look at the following tables to see how they work.

Direct speech	Reported speech
I	He, she
Me	Him, her
We	They
Us	Them
You	He, she, they
You	Him, her, them
My	His, her
Mine	His, hers
Our	Their
Ours	Theirs
Your	His, her, their
Yours	His, hers, theirs

Change of Adverbs of Place and Adverbs of Time

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
This	That
These	Those
Adverbs of Place	
Here	There
Adverbs of Time	
Now	Then
Today	That day
Tomorrow	The next day / The following day
Yesterday	The previous day

Tonight	That night
Last week	The week before
Next week	The week after
Last month	The previous month
Next month	The following month
Last year	The previous year
Next year	The following year
Ago	Before
Thus	So

Change of Tense

Direct Speech

Simple Present

Example: Preethi said, "I cook pasta."

Reported Speech:

Simple Past

Example: Preethi said that she cooked pasta.

D: Present Continuous

Example: Preethi said, "I am cooking pasta."

R: Past Continuous

Example: Preethi said that she was cooking pasta.

D: Present Perfect

Example: Preethi said, "I have cooked pasta."

R: Past Perfect

Example: Preethi said that she had cooked pasta.

D: Present Perfect

Example: Preethi said, "I have been cooking pasta."

R: Past Perfect Continuous

Example: Preethi said that she had been cooking pasta.

D: Simple Past

Example: Preethi said, "I cooked pasta."

R: Past Perfect

Example: Preethi said that she had cooked pasta.

D: Past Continuous

Example: Preethi said, "I was cooking pasta."

R: Past Perfect Continuous

Example: Preethi said that she had been cooking pasta.

D: Past Perfect

Example: Preethi said, "I had cooked pasta."

R: Past Perfect (No change)

Example: Preethi said that she had cooked pasta.

D: Past Perfect Continuous

Example: Preethi said, "I had been cooking pasta."

R: Past Perfect Continuous (No change)

Example: Preethi said that she had been cooking pasta.

Tips to Practise Reported Speech

Here are some tips you can follow to become a pro in using reported speech.

- Select a play, a drama or a short story with dialogues and try transforming the sentences in direct speech into reported speech.
- Write about an incident or speak about a day in your life using reported speech.
- Develop a story by following prompts or on your own using reported speech.

Further processing of the generated reported speech results can then be performed in application-specific pipelines utilizing further components, e.g., for quote attribution as performed by NewsExplorer or belief analysis of reporting clauses as performed by the Fuzzy Believer (Krestel et al., 2007a; Krestel et al., 2007b).

Conclusion

Reported Speech is an important linguistic phenomenon in newspaper articles, where it serves to provide evidential scope for second hand information. It serves this function also in many of the new, more argumentative media, such as blogs, where proper attribution is part of good style and carries with it subtle information about both content and social structure. Our system takes the first step in making this information explicit and accessible.

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