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Unit 4

Reported Speech: Statements



「Mum, my teacher said we can go to Kowloon Park to have our lesson.」

「Did you go?」

「Yes, we did!」

「Tom, 那你要用 could 呀! 因為如果你不用 past tense 的話, 媽媽會以為你還沒有去, 或者你以後也可以去九龍公園上課呢。」

「這樣的話就太好了! 不過, 我們只有今天才這樣做。這句子應該寫成:

My teacher said we could go to Kowloon Park to have our lesson. 若這件事是經常發生的, 是一個習慣或事實, 我還是可以用 present tense, 例如 Our teacher said light travels faster than sound. 對嗎?

「對!」

We use **reported speech** to report what someone said.

Example: He said **he hadn't washed** the dishes.

❖ **Person:** change from first person to third person

Example:

Direct speech: He said, 'I speak English.'

Reported speech: He said (that) **he** spoke English.

❖ **Tense:** move back to the past

Simple present tense → **Simple past tense**

Example:

Direct speech: He said, 'Mum **looks** thirsty.'

Reported speech: He said (that) Mum **looked** thirsty.

Reported Speech: Statements

Present continuous tense → Past continuous tense

Example:

Direct speech:	He said, 'I am listening to her now.'
Reported speech:	He said (that) he was listening to her then.

Simple past tense / Present perfect tense → Past perfect tense

Example:

Direct speech:	He said, 'Belle worked very hard.' He said, 'Belle has worked very hard.'
Reported speech:	He said (that) Belle had worked very hard.

❖ Time and place expressions

Direct speech	Reported speech
today	that day
now	then
yesterday	the day before / the previous day
... days ago	... days before
last week	the week before / the previous week
next year	the following year
tomorrow	the next day / the following day
here	there
this	that
these	those

Example:

Direct speech:	He said, 'I was absent yesterday .'
Reported speech:	He said (that) he had been absent the day before .

Exercise 1

In the following sentences, circle the correct answers to change direct speech to reported speech.

1. My sister said, 'I lost your wallet two days ago.'

My sister said that (she / I / he) had lost (my / your / her / wallet two days (before / ago / after).

2. The boy said, 'You can use my computer tomorrow.'

The boy said that (you / I / he) could use (my / your / his) computer (then / today / the next day).

3. Tom told his sister, 'I am putting these clothes in your room.'

Tom told his sister that (I / she / he) was putting (these / this / those) clothes in (your / his / her) room.

4. They said, 'We are never going to finish the task today.'

They said that (we / they / he) were never going to finish the task (today / yesterday / that day).

5. Rebecca told her mum, 'I am going to the park.'

Rebecca told her mum that she (is going / were going / was going) to the park.

Reported Speech: Statements

6. Tina said, 'I went to Italy last year.'

Tina said that she (gone / had gone / has gone) to Italy (the year before / today / then).

7. Tom said, 'I can ride a bike.'

Tom said that he (can ride / ride / could ride) a bike.

8. Tom said, 'I have read this book already.'

Tom said that he (read / had read / has read) (his / those / that) book already.

9. Rachel said, 'I will call her back tomorrow.'

Rachel said that she (will call / would call / called) her back (the next day / tomorrow / the other day).

10. The chef said, 'I washed my hands just now.'

The chef said that he (washes / had washed / washed) his hands (then / now / before).

Exercise 2

In the following sentences, direct speech has been changed to reported speech. Choose the correct answers.

1. She said, 'I will call you every night.'
 - a) She said that I will call me every night.
 - b) She said that she will call me the night before.
 - c) She said that she would call me every night.
2. The woman said, 'I want to eat pancakes.'
 - a) The woman said that she wanted to eat pancakes.
 - b) The woman said that I wanted to eat pancakes.
 - c) The woman said that she wanted to eat pancakes.
3. Joyce said, 'I wrote a letter to him last week.'
 - a) Joyce said that she had written a letter to me the week before.
 - b) Joyce said that she had written a letter to him the week before.
 - c) Joyce said that she have written a letter to him last week.

Reported Speech: Statements

4. Tom said, 'I haven't eaten ice cream for a long time.'
 - a) Tom said that I haven't eaten ice cream for a long time.
 - b) Tom said that he hadn't eaten ice cream for a long time.
 - c) Tom said that he hasn't eaten ice cream for a long time.
5. Mrs Wong said, 'My son is playing video games in his room.'
 - a) Mrs Wong said that his son is playing video games in his room.
 - b) Mrs Wong said that her son is playing video games in his room.
 - c) Mrs Wong said that her son was playing video games in his room.
6. Jenny said, 'I can read books about wizards all day!'
 - a) Jenny said that she can read books about wizards all day.
 - b) Jenny said that she could read books about wizards all day.
 - c) Jenny said that I could read books about wizards all day.
7. Max said, 'Daniel hasn't had his lunch yet.'
 - a) Max said that Daniel hadn't had his lunch yet.
 - b) Max said that Daniel hadn't has his lunch yet.
 - c) Max said that Daniel hadn't been having his lunch yet.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences using reported speech.

1. Tom said, 'Sally wants to go to the beach.'

Tom said that Sally _____.

2. Jessica said, 'I am going to clean my room tomorrow.'

Jessica told me that she _____.

3. Jim said, 'They love the song.'

Jim said that they _____.

4. Tom and Jason said, 'We have watched this film twice.'

They said that they _____.

5. Kathy said, 'My dad can teach us Spanish.'

Kathy said that _____.

6. Lucy said, 'The train didn't arrive on time.'

Lucy said that _____.

Reported Speech: Statements

Exercise 4

In the following sentences, change direct speech to reported speech.

1. Sandy said, 'These are not mine.'

2. Tom said, 'I won't be in art class tomorrow.'

3. Jenny and Alice said, 'We went ice-skating yesterday.'

4. The teacher said, 'The students are playing football here.'

5. The sales assistant said, 'This painting is the nicest one in the shop.'

6. The girl said, 'I haven't ridden a horse before.'
