


REPORTED SPEECH

(also known as *Indirect speech*)

REPORTED SPEECH: Definition

We use reported speech when we want to **tell what someone said** without repeating the exact words.



Our members voted earlier today. The result will be available later this afternoon. I can't say any more than that.

The union leader said that **their** members **had** **voted** earlier and that the result **would be** available later in the afternoon, but he added that **he couldn't** say any more.

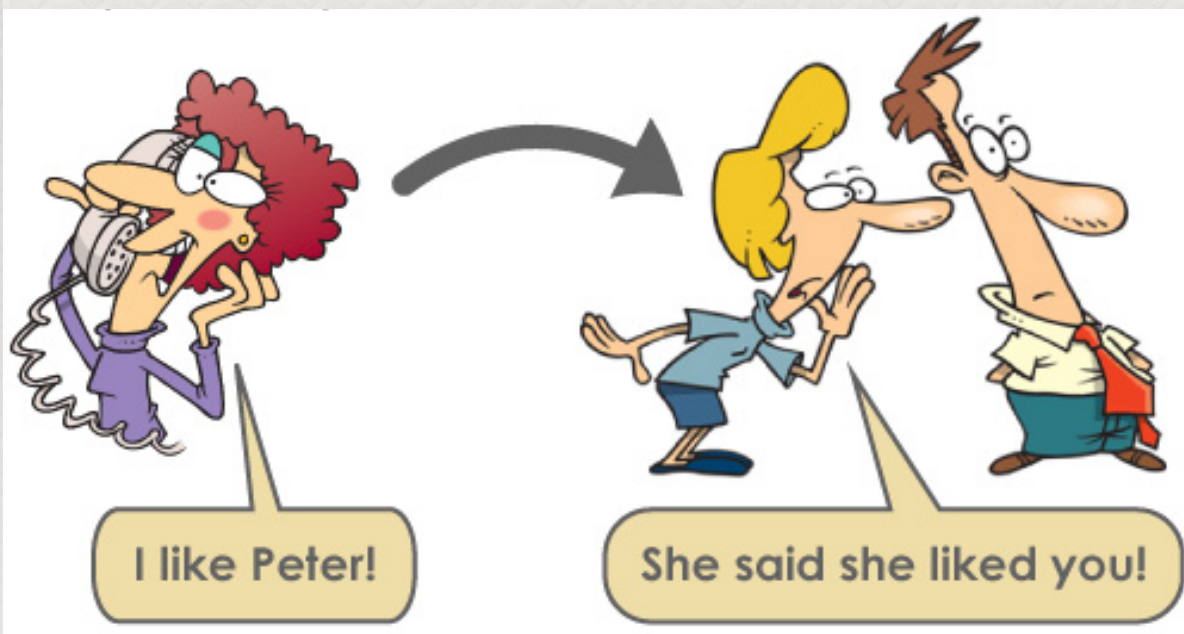
DIRECT SPEECH VS. REPORTED SPEECH

DIRECT SPEECH

- Exact words
- Quotation marks “”

REPORTED SPEECH

- Modifications
(Pronouns, verbs, time and place expressions)
- NO quotation marks
- Introductory verb



REPORTED SPEECH

STATEMENTS

REPORTED SPEECH:

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.

REPORTED SPEECH:

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.

1. Identify type of sentence:

- Statement
- Question
- Orders, requests
- Suggestions

REPORTED SPEECH: **Statement**

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.

1. Identify type of sentence:

- **Statement**
- Question
- Orders, requests
- Suggestions

REPORTED SPEECH: **Statement**

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.

2. Write the corresponding introductory or reporting sentence for a statement

Reporting verbs: statements

The two most common reporting verbs are **TELL** and **SAY**.

TELL: needs an object, usually a person.
(David told me...)

SAY: does not usually have an object. If we use an object with say, we introduce it with **TO**
(David said **to** me...)

Right or Wrong ???





Jane said us she couldn't walk
any further



Jane said **TO** us she couldn't
walk any further



Peter said to me he was going
to work that summer



Peter said to me he was going
to work that summer



Jane told she had done all the
chores by herself



Jane told **me** she had done all
the chores by herself



Sarah told to us she couldn't
walk any further



Sarah told ___ us she couldn't
walk any further

REPORTED SPEECH: **Statement**

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said

REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said

3. Modify:

- Pronouns
- Verb tenses
- Time and place expressions

Pronoun changes in reported speech

Direct speech	Reported speech
I	He / she
You	I / we (you)
He / she / it / they	He / she / it / they
We	They

Possessive changes in reported speech

Direct speech	Reported speech
Me	him / her
Mine	his / hers
Your	my / our
Yours	mine / ours
Us	Them
Our	Their
Ours	Theirs

REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said

3. Modify:

- Pronouns
- Verb tenses
- Time and place expressions

REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said **he**

3. Modify:

- Pronouns
- Verb tenses
- Time and place expressions

REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said he

3. Modify:

- Pronouns
- Verb tenses
- Time and place expressions

Tense changes in reported speech

Direct speech	Reported speech
Present simple	Past simple
Present continuous	Past Continuous
-Past simple -Present perfect simple	Past perfect
-Past continuous -Present perfect continuous	Past perfect continuous
Am/is/are going to	was/were going to
can, will, must	could, would, had to

Tense changes in reported speech

Some verb forms don't change:

- Past perfect

- Modal verbs: could, would, should and mustn't

ATTENTION!

REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said he

3. Modify:

- Pronouns
- Verb tenses
- Time and place expressions

REPORTED SPEECH: **Statement**

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said he never ate

REPORTED SPEECH: **Statement**

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said he never ate meat

REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said he never ate meat

3. Modify:

- Pronouns
- Verb tenses
- Time and place expressions

Time and place expressions changes in reported speech

Direct speech	Reported speech
Today	that day
Tonight	that night
Tomorrow	the next day / the following day
next (week, month, etc)	the next / following (week, month, etc)
Ago	before
yesterday	the day before / the previous day
Last (week, month...)	the last / previous (week, month...)
now	then
here	there
this (place)	that (place)

REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.



John said he never ate meat

3. Modify:

- Pronouns
- Verb tenses
- Time and place expressions

REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Direct speech

“I never eat meat here”, said John.

Reported speech

John said he never ate meat there.

REPORTED SPEECH: **Statement**

Peter said, “I took the dog home with me”



REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Peter said, “I took the dog home with me”



Peter said (that) **he had taken** the dog
home with **him**.

REPORTED SPEECH: **Statement**

Peter said, “I would like to see it
tomorrow”



REPORTED SPEECH: Statement

Peter said, “I would like to see it tomorrow”



Peter said (that) he would like to see it the following day

REPORTED SPEECH

QUESTIONS

REPORTED SPEECH: Questions

Miss Doyle was faced with a crowd of reporters yesterday. They asked her **why she wanted to move to Paris** and **whether she was leaving** the show. They also wanted to know **who her new agent was** – but she remained silent, and was quickly driven away from the studio.



REPORTED SPEECH: Questions

When we report a question, we change the **word order** of the question - it becomes the same word order as a statement (Subject - verb- object)

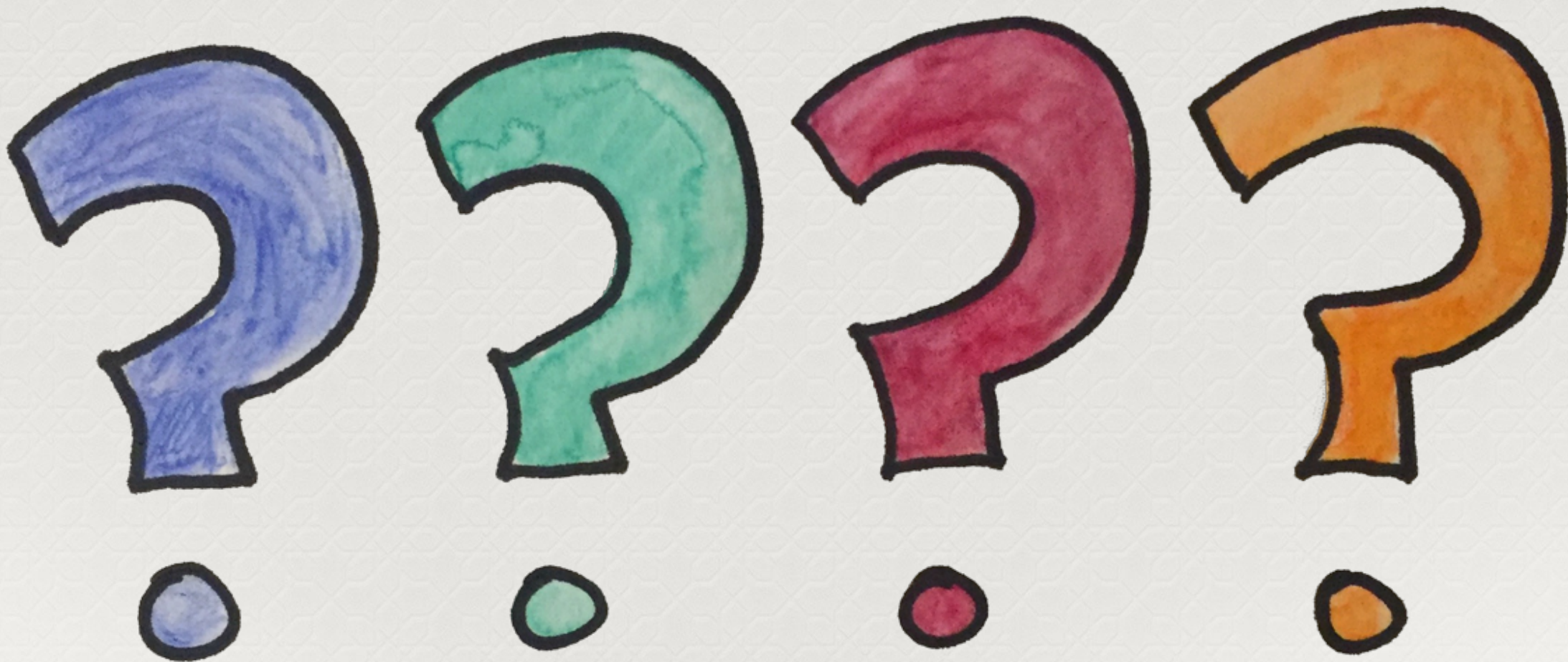


REPORTED SPEECH: Questions



We make the same changes in **pronouns**, **tenses** and **time and place expressions** as for reported statements

REPORTED SPEECH: Questions



REPORTED SPEECH: Questions

DON'T USE QUESTION MARKS



REPORTED SPEECH: Questions



1. Identify the type of question:
 - YES / NO question
 - Open question

Reporting verbs: questions



2. Write the corresponding introductory sentence for a question.

The two most common reporting verbs are **ASK** and **WANT TO KNOW**.

ASK: can be followed by an object

Want to know: cannot be followed by an object

REPORTED SPEECH: Questions



3. Add:

- YES / NO question —> If /
Whether

- Open question —> Wh- word

REPORTED SPEECH: **Questions**

The flight attendant said: “Could you fasten your seat belts, please?”



REPORTED SPEECH: Questions

The flight attendant said: “Could you fasten your seat belts, please?”



The flight attendant asked **IF** we could fasten our seat belts.

REPORTED SPEECH: **Questions**

Peter said: “What do you want?”



REPORTED SPEECH: Questions

Peter said: “What do you want?”

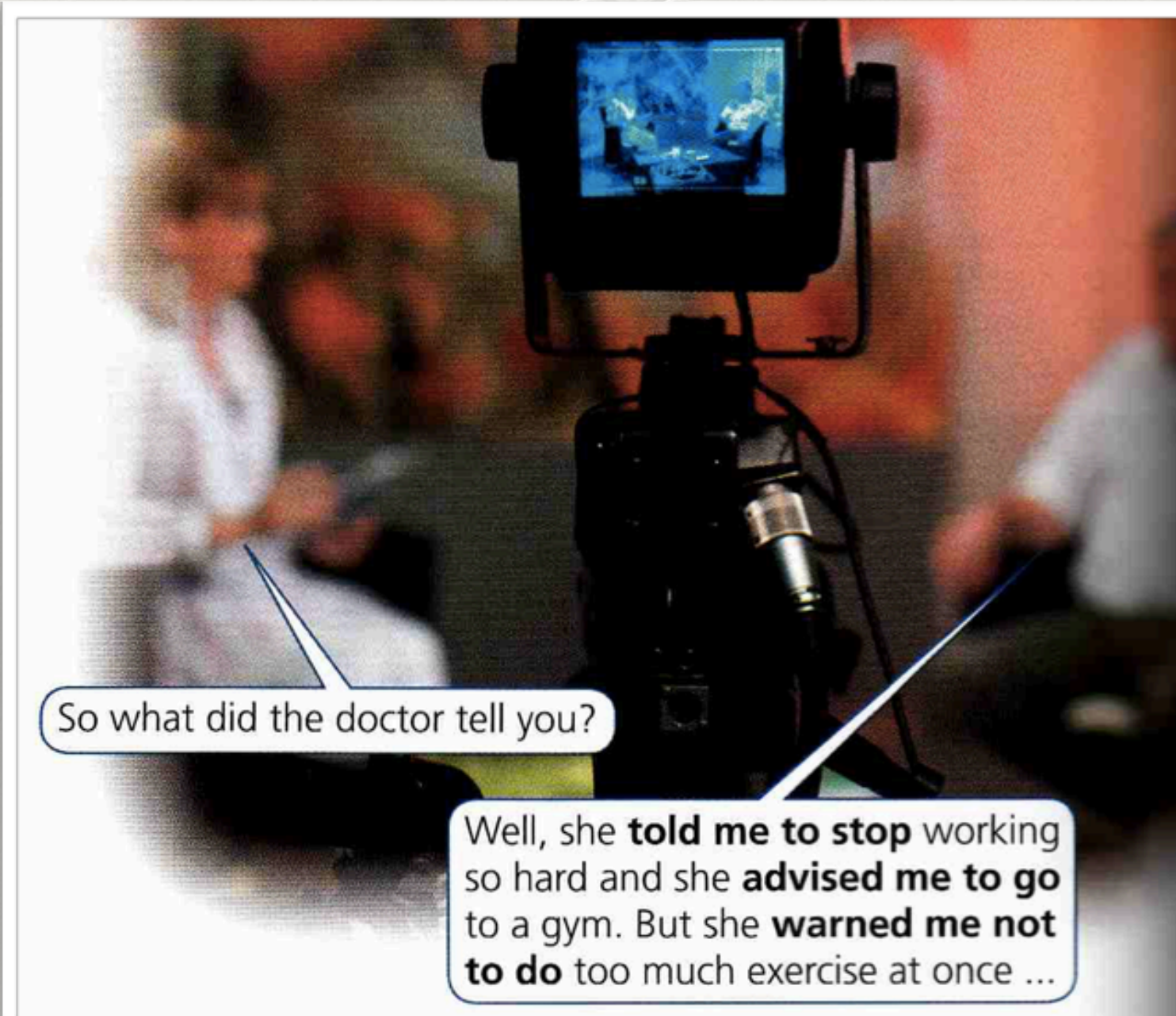


Peter asked (them) **what** they wanted.

REPORTED SPEECH

ORDERS,
REQUESTS AND
ADVICES

REPORTED SPEECH: ORDERS, REQUEST AND ADVICES



So what did the doctor tell you?

Well, she **told me to stop** working so hard and she **advised me to go** to a gym. But she **warned me not to do** too much exercise at once ...

REPORTED SPEECH:

Orders, requests and advices

We can report orders, requests and advices with a **reporting verb + infinitive with to**.

These reporting verbs all need an object.



Reporting verbs: Orders, requests and advices

Orders: tell, order

Requests: ask, beg

Advices: advice, tell, warn



We don't use *say + to* to report requests or orders: ~~*X My mother said me to tidy my room.*~~

To request information, we use *ask (+ object) + if/whether/wh-* word:

He asked (me) if I had everything I needed.

REPORTED SPEECH: **Orders, requests and advices**

Sarah said, “Help me”



REPORTED SPEECH: Orders, requests and advices

Sarah said, “Help me”



Sarah told **me** **TO** help her

REPORTED SPEECH:

Orders, requests and advices

We can report negative orders, requests and advices with a **reporting verb + NOT + infinitive with to**.

The teacher told us not to copy

REPORTED SPEECH: **Orders, requests and advices**

My mum said, “Don’t leave your room!”



REPORTED SPEECH: **Orders, requests and advices**

My mum said, “Don’t leave your room!”



My mum ordered **me** **NOT TO** leave my
room

Other reporting verbs: **orders, requests and advices**

Verb + object TO inf.	tell, advice, ask, order, warn
Verb + TO inf.	agree, decide, offer, promise, refuse,
Verb + v-ing	suggest, recommend

REPORTED SPEECH

SUGGESTIONS

REPORTED SPEECH: **Suggestions**

Elizabeth suggested, “Shall we meet at
the theatre?”



REPORTED SPEECH: **Suggestions**

Elizabeth suggested, “Shall we meet at
the theatre?”



Elizabeth suggested meeting at the theatre.

REPORTED SPEECH:

Suggested:

Elizabeth suggested **meeting** at the theatre

-Elizabeth suggested **a film**

- They suggested (that) she **be** at the theatre

- The teacher suggested (that) we **not waste**
time

-Elizabeth suggested (that) we **should meet** at
the theatre

REPORTED SPEECH:
Suggested:

“Let’s take a taxi”, she said.

REPORTED SPEECH: **Suggested:**

“Let’s take a taxi”, she said.



She suggested **taking** a taxi

She suggested that we **take** a taxi

She suggested that we **should take** a taxi

