



# REPORTED SPEECH

# **Abstract**

Reported Speech is a way how we report what someone has said by changing some of the words said, but retaining the same meaning.

### **KEY WORDS:**

Report, Said, Changing, Retaining, Meaning



If we report what another person has said, we usually do not use the speaker's exact words (direct speech), but reported speech (indirect).



- When transforming statements, check whether you have to change:
- pronouns
- present tense verbs (3rd person singular)
- place and time expressions
- tenses (backshift)



- Example
- direct speech
- "I speak English."
- English.reported speech
- He said that he spoke English.

Backshift of tenses		
Simple Present	Simple Past	
Simple Past	Past Perfect	
Present Perfect		
Past Perfect		
VVill	would	
Progressive forms		
am/are/is	was/were	
was/were	had been	
has been		
had been		

#### Direct Speech

Simple Present

"She wants an ice-cream"

**Present Continuous** 

"She is singing."

Present Perfect

"He has seen the film."

Past Simple

"He bought a new CD."

Past Continuous

"I was feeding the cat."

Future (Will)

"I will give her the book tomorrow."

Can

"I can dance very well."

May

"She may go to school."

Must

"You must do your homework."

#### Reported Speech

Simple Past

She said she wanted an icecream.

Past Continuous

She said she was singing.

Past Perfect

She said he had seen the film.

Past Perfect

She said he had bought a new CD the day before.

Past Perfect Continuous

He said he had been feeding the cat.

Conditional (Would)

He said he would give her the book the next day.

Could

She said she could dance very well.

Might

He said he might go to school.

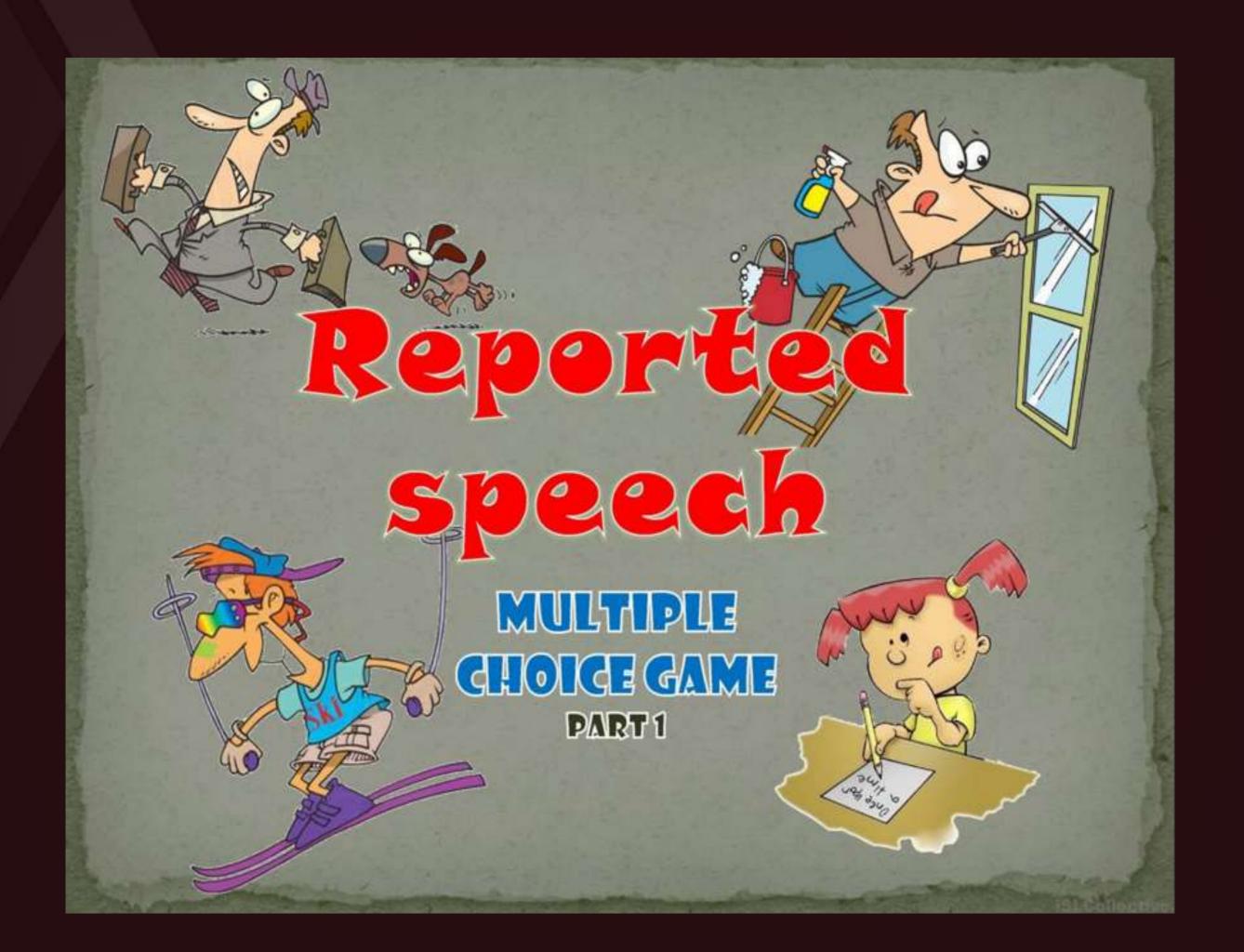
Had to

She said he had to do his homework



- Rewrite the sentences in reported speech. Change pronouns and time expressions where necessary.
- She said, "I am reading."
  - → She said that
- They said, "We are busy."
  - → They said that \_\_\_\_\_
- He said, "I know a better restaurant."
  - → He said that
- She said, "I woke up early."
  - → She said that
- He said, "I will ring her."
  - → He said that

- They said, "We have just arrived."
  - → They said that \_\_\_\_\_\_
- He said, "I will clean the car."
  - → He said that \_\_\_\_\_\_
- She said, "I did not say that."
  - → She said that \_\_\_\_\_
- She said, "I don't know where my shoes are."
  - → She said that
- He said: "I won't tell anyone."
  - → He said that



likes

liked

was liking



Greg said that he singing songs for his friends.



is

# had been

was



"I am so angry today"

Mark said that he so angry that day.







"I play football for school team"

Fred said that he football for school team.

was walking

is walking

walked



"I am walking in the park with Tom"

Peter said that he in the park with Tom.



was likes liked



"I like skiing in winter"

Samuel said that he skiing in winter.



played

had played

was playing



"I played computer games yesterday"

Andrew said that he computer games the day before.



was is were



"I am so slim"

Tom said that he so slim.



was is were



"I am so slim"

Tom said that he so slim.



had gone

gone

was going



"I went to the seaside last summer"

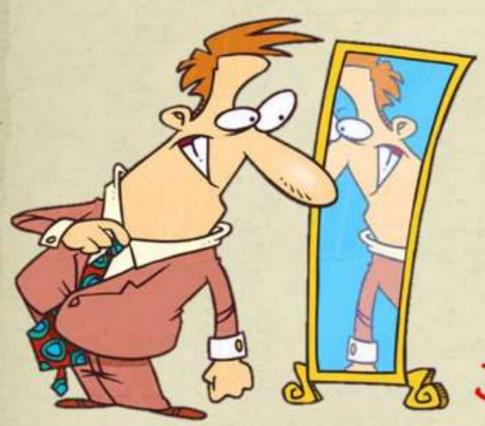
David said that he to the seaside the previous summer.



would buy

could buy

buy



"I will buy a new suit in two weeks"

Jack said that he a new suit two weeks after.



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