

## Reported Speech

**Study the following chart carefully. Notice how reported speech is one step back into the past from direct speech.**

Quoted Speech	Reported Speech
He said, "I live in Paris."	<b>He said he lived in Paris.</b>
He said, "I am cooking dinner."	<b>He said he was cooking dinner.</b>
He said, "I have visited London twice."	<b>He said he had visited London twice.</b>
He said, "I went to New York last week."	<b>He said he had gone to New York the week before.</b>
He said, "I had already eaten."	<b>He said he had already eaten.</b>
He said, "I am going to find a new job."	<b>He said he was going to find a new job.</b>
He said, "I will give Jack a call."	<b>He said he would give Jack a call.</b>
He said, "I have been working on that project for over two weeks."	<b>He said he had been working on that project for over two weeks.</b>
He said, "I can come tonight."	<b>He said he could come that night.</b>
* He said, "I may buy a new car."	<b>He said he might buy a new car.</b>
* He said, "I might go to Denver."	<b>He said he might go to Denver.</b>
* He said, "I must give Ken a call."	<b>He said he had to give Ken a call.</b>
* He said, "I have to give Ken a call."	<b>He said he had to give Ken a call.</b>
* He said, "I should see a doctor"	<b>He said he should see a doctor.</b>

**Exercise 1: Put the following paragraph in the reported speech into conversational form using direct speech.**

Peter introduced me to Jack who said he was pleased to meet me. I replied that it was my pleasure, and that I

hoped Jack was enjoying his stay in Seattle. He said he thought Seattle was a beautiful city, but that it rained too much. He said that he had been staying at the Bayview Hotel for three weeks, and that it hadn't stopped raining since he had arrived. Of course, he said, this wouldn't have surprised him if it hadn't been July! Peter replied that he should have brought warmer clothes. He then continued by saying that he was going to fly to Hawaii the following week, and he that he couldn't wait to enjoy some sunny weather. Both Jack and I commented that Peter was a lucky person indeed.

**Exercise 2: Ask you partner the following questions making sure to take good notes. After you have finished the questions, find a new partner and report what you have learnt about your first partner using reported speech.**

- What is your favorite sport and how long have you been playing/doing it?
- What are your plans for your next vacation?
- How long have you known your best friend? Can you give me a description of him/her?
- What kind of music do you like? Have you always listened to that kind of music?
- What did you use to do when you were younger that you don't do anymore?
- Do you have any predictions about the future?
- Can you tell me what you do on a typical Saturday afternoon?
- What were you doing yesterday at this time?
- Which two promises will you make concerning learning English?

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