

Reported Speech

What is Reported Speech?

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





Could you help me?

Directed Speech

What did Alan ask us?

Alan asked us to help him.

Reported Speech / Indirected Speech

Reported requests, offers....

When we report offers, promises, threats etc, we can use the structure:

Reporting verb + to-infinitive

Can I help you?

What did the woman say to us?

She offered to help us.

reporting verb

to-infinitive



Notice

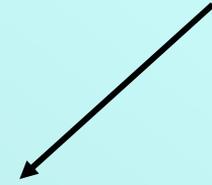
The **reporting verbs** that we can use in this structure include:

Offer, promise, agree, refuse etc.

I'll work
harder



What did Jacky say?



He promised to
work harder.

Reported orders, requests....

When we report orders, requests, warnings, advice, invitations etc, we can use the structure:

Reporting verb + object + to infinitive



Can you tell
me how to
read the word,
John?

What did the girl say?

The girl asked John to tell her how to read the word.

reporting verb + object + to-infinitive

Notice :
The change
of pronouns



Notice

The **reporting verbs** that we can use in this structure include:

tell, ask, order, warn, remind,
advise, invite etc.

Amy, I think you should do your homework.



What did mother say to Amy?

Mother **advised** Amy to **do her** homework.

Reporting negative orders, promises, advices.....

In negative orders, promises,
requests,etc, we use the structure:

not + to-infinitive



What did the dentist ask Joe?

The dentist asked Joe not to eat too much sweet.

↑
not + to-infinitive

Changes of pronouns

- In reported speech, we usually need to **change the pronouns** (e.g. I, you, me, this, these, etc) and **possessive adjectives** (e.g. my, your, etc).
- We usually change the pronouns from :

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1 st person (I, me) | → | 3 rd person |
| 2 nd person (you, your) | | (we, us) |
- However we **do not need to change the 1st person pronoun I** when the speaker is reporting **his/her own words**.

What did the woman say to the man?

She asked **him** to be careful when **he** passes **her** the box.



Oral Drills

What did Joan promise?

Joan promised to work out the programme in two minutes.

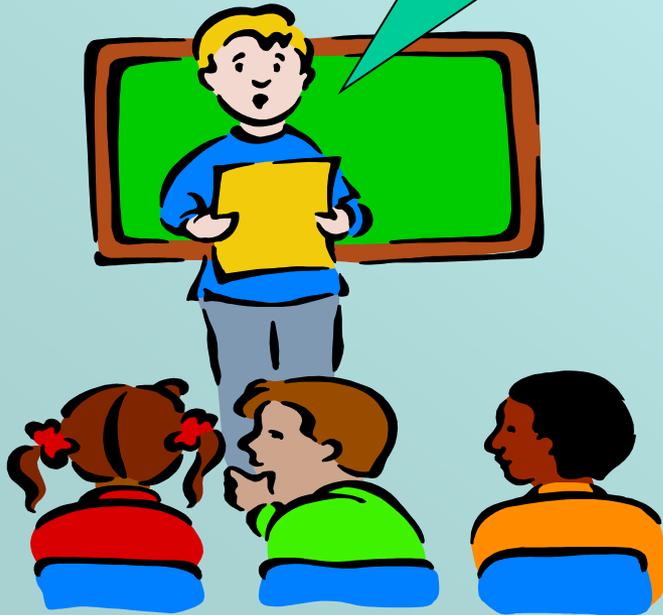




What did the man agree?

He agreed to sign the contract.

Let me teach
you.



What did Jackie say?

Jacky offered to teach
the children / them.

What did the doctor say?

The doctor asked David to pass him the bandage.

Please pass me
the bandage,
David.



What did the
doctor advise Mr.
Chan?

The doctor advised Mr.
Chan not to smoke
again.

Mr. Chan, you
shouldn't smoke
again.



What did Susan say?

She asked Tim to get her down.

She asked Tim not to shoot the balloons.

She asked Tim to get her down and not to shoot the balloons.



Tim, don't shoot the balloons.

Please get me down, Tim



What did the vet say?

He asked the dog not to be afraid.

He asked the dog not to move

He asked the dog not to be afraid and move.

Relevant Website

<http://www.edunet.com/english/grammar/rep5.cfm>

The End