



Reported speech exercises

Rewrite each sentence in reported speech, beginning as shown.

a) 'I won't be there because I'm having a party,' said Lucy.

Lucy told us that she *wouldn't be there because she was having a party.*

b) 'I've lost the map and I don't know the way,' said Jack.

Jack told me that he

c) 'When I finish the book, I'm going to watch television,' said Jessica.

Jessica said that when

d) 'I'm doing some homework but I won't be long,' said Mike.

Mike said that he

e) 'I got up late and I missed the bus,' said Richard.

Richard said that he

Rewrite each sentence in reported speech, beginning as shown. Do not change the meaning.

a) 'Are you staying here all summer?' the little girl asked me.

The little girl asked me *if/whether I was staying there all summer.*

b) 'What does 'procrastinate' mean?' I asked my teacher.

I asked my teacher

c) 'Have you done your homework, or not?' my mother asked me.

My mother asked me

d) 'When is your birthday?' I asked Sue.

I asked Sue

e) 'Did you remember to lock the door,' my father asked me.

My father asked me

f) 'Why have you turned off the television?' Ellen asked me.

Ellen asked me



1) Choose the best verb underlined in the direct speech sentence.

- a) Helen asked me if I liked visiting old buildings.
'Do you like/Did you like visiting old buildings?' asked Helen.
- b) Bill asked Mary if she had done anything the previous weekend.
'Have you done anything/Did you do anything last weekend?'
- c) The policeman asked me if the car belonged to me.
'Does this car belong/Did this car belong to you?' asked the policeman.
- d) Fiona asked me if I had seen her umbrella anywhere.
'Did you see/Have you seen my umbrella anywhere?' asked Fiona.
- e) Joe asked Tina when she would get back.
'When will you get/have you got back?' asked Joe.
- f) Eddie asked Steve who he had been to the cinema with.
'Who did you go/had you been to the cinema with?' asked Eddie.
- g) My parents asked me what time I had got home the night before.
'What time did you get/have you got home last night?' my parents asked.
- h) David asked a passer-by if it was the right road for Hastings.
'Is this/Was this the right road for Hastings?' asked David.

2) Rewrite each sentence as direct speech.

- a) Graham told Ian he would see him the following day.

- b) Pauline told the children their swimming things were not there.

- c) David told me my letter had arrived the day before.

- d) Shirley told Larry she would see him that evening.

- e) Bill told Stephen he hadn't been at home that morning

- f) Margaret told John to phone her on the following day.

- g) Tim told Ron he was leaving that afternoon.

- h) Christine told Michael she had lost her lighter the night before.



3) Put a form of either say, tell or ask in each space.

- a) I _____ you that you had to be on time. Why are you late?
- b) When you _____ if she'd work late, what did she _____?
- c) I think that Alan _____ us a lie about his qualifications.
- d) When I _____ him what he was doing there, he told me it was none of my business.
- e) I _____ I would help you, so here I am.
- f) Did you hear what Sheila _____ about her new job?
- g) What did Carol _____ you about her holiday?
- h) There, you see! I _____ you the bus would be on time.

4) Put a form of one of the verbs listed into the space in each sentence.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|------|
| accuse | agree | decide | insist | refuse | admit | apologise | deny |
| offer | remind | advise | confess | doubt | promise | suggest | |

- a) 'No, it's not true, I didn't steal the money!'
Jean _____ stealing the money.
_____ that she had stolen the money.
- c) 'Why don't we go to the cinema this evening?'
Peter _____ going to the cinema.
_____ that they went to the cinema.
- d) 'Yes, of course. I'll give you a lift, Helen.'
Liz _____ to give Helen a lift.
_____ that she would give Helen a lift.
- e) 'I've broken your pen. I'm awfully sorry, Jack.'
David _____ for breaking Jack's pen.
- f) 'Don't forget to post my letter, will you, Sue?'
Diana _____ Sue to post her letter.
- g) 'Let me carry your suitcase, John.'
Harry _____ to carry John's suitcase.
- h) 'All right, it's true, I was nervous.'
The leading actor _____ to being nervous.
_____ that he had been nervous.
- i) 'I don't think Liverpool will win.'
Vanessa _____ whether Liverpool would win.
- j) 'If I were you, Bill, I'd buy a mountain bike.'
Stephen _____ Bill to buy a mountain bike.
- k) 'Don't worry, Martin, I'll bring your book back.'
Leslie _____ to bring Martin's book back.
_____ Martin he would bring his book back.
- l) 'You murdered Lord Digby, didn't you, Colin!'
The inspector _____ Colin of murdering Lord Digby.



- p) 'Have you ever been to Japan, Paul?'
Sue asked Paul
- q) 'Sue, can you remember to buy some bread?'
Paul reminded
- r) 'I don't really think it'll snow tomorrow.'
I doubt
- s) 'I'm sorry I didn't phone you earlier.'
Jill apologised
- t) 'I really think you should see a doctor, Chris.'
William advised
- u) 'No, I'm sorry, I won't work on Saturday. Definitely not!'
Catherine refused
- v) 'Let's go out to the pub for lunch, shall we?'
Wendy suggested
- w) 'It's not true! I have never been arrested.'
Larry denied
- x) 'If you like, I'll help you do the decorating, Bob.'
Ann offered
- y) 'I'll definitely take you to the park on Sunday, children.'
Tom promised the
- z) 'Yes, all right, I'll share the bill with you, Dave.'
Brenda agreed
- aa) 'A lot of English words are borrowed from other languages.'
The teacher
- bb) 'China is a densely populated country.'
She said
- cc) 'You're always forgetting to shut up the fridge door.'
She complained to
- dd) 'Don't play near the road, Jimmy.'
Jimmy's mother asked
- ee) 'It's time they moved to a new house.'
Ann said
- ff) 'Let's paint the walls blue!'
My little brother suggested
- gg) 'The exam papers are still being marked, Jane.'
The teacher informed
- hh) 'Get off the grass immediately!' he said to the kids.
He ordered
- ii) 'I'm teaching Jane's class as she's on holiday this week.'
He said



6) Rewrite each sentence as indirect speech without any help.

"I can't believe what you're saying," Paul told me.

"Would you like a cup of tea? she said to the girls.

"What time did you arrive in London?" he asked.

"I'm sorry to be late, but I missed the bus" she said.

"Thank you for the postcard you sent me," she said to Jane.

"What were you doing last night at 9.30?" he asked.

"I'll show you when I finish," he said.

"The film had already started when Peter arrived," she said.

"I was having a shower when the phone rang," she said.

"You must finish the report today," my boss told me.

Then Pierce Brosnan says: "My name's Bond. James Bond."

"Did they enjoy the party?" she asked.



"Alright then, we'll meet after the lesson," she said.

"No way! I won't tell them," he said.

"Open your books and start reading, children," the teacher said.

"Would you like to come to my party, John?" she said.

"Let's go to the park!" she said.

"You should be more careful in the future," he said.

"Did you pass the exam?" I said to Joe.

"I'm doing my homework," the boy said.

"What were you doing when the lights went off?" she asked me.

"Do you mind closing the window, please? It's getting cold" she said to the man.

"Did you enjoy the meal?" she said to me.

"Would you like another biscuit, John?" he said.

"Remember to check the tyres before leaving," they said to us.



"Sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt you" she said.

"You'd better go to the doctor, Paul" she said.

"How about rating a canoe?" he said.

"They saw the vase was broken when they opened the parcel," I said.

"You must be prepared for the worst," the doctor said.

"Do you understand French?", she asked me.

"We're meeting John next weekend," she said to me.

"Can you pass me the bread, please?" she said to me.

"Let's go for a swim!" he said.

"You should tell the truth," they said to us.

"Would you like to go to Paret's?" she said.

"Have you finished the homework, Paul?" she said.

"No way! I won't phone Mary," he said.