

## Unit 47

### Reported speech 1 (He said that ...)

A Study this example situation:



Compare:

direct → Paul said,

reported → Paul said that

You want to tell somebody what Paul said.  
There are two ways of doing this:

You can repeat Paul's words (direct speech):  
Paul said, 'I'm feeling ill.'

Or you can use reported speech:

Paul said that he was feeling ill.

In writing we use the quote or  
names to show direct speech

#### B

When we use reported speech, the main verb of the sentence is usually past (Paul said that ... / I told her that ... etc.). The rest of the sentence is usually past too:

- Paul said that he was feeling ill.
- I told Lisa that I didn't have any money.

You can leave out that. So you can say:

- Paul said that he was feeling ill. / or □ Paul said he was feeling ill.

In general, the present form in direct speech changes to the past form in reported speech:

comes → was	finds → did	will → would
are → were	feels → had	can → could
want/would/were going etc. → wanted/would/were going etc.		

Compare direct speech and reported speech:

You ask Jenny: 'Here are some of the things she said in direct speech.'

- 'My parents are very well.'
- 'I'm going to learn to drive.'
- 'I want to buy a car.'
- 'John has a new job.'
- 'I can't come to the party on Friday.'
- 'I don't have much free time.'
- 'I'm going away for a few days. I'll let you know when I get back.'



Later you tell somebody what Jenny said.  
You use reported speech:

- Jenny said that her parents were very well.
- She said that she was going to learn to drive.
- She said that she wanted to buy a car.
- She said that John had a new job.
- She said that she couldn't come to the party on Friday.
- She said she didn't have much free time.
- She said that she was going away for a few days and would phone me when she got back.

#### C

The past simple (did/saw/knew etc.) can usually stay the same in reported speech, so you can change it to the past perfect (had done / had seen / had known etc.):

- direct → Paul said, 'I woke up feeling ill, so I didn't go to work.'
- reported → Paul said that he woke up feeling ill, so he didn't go to work. ... or
- Paul said that he had woken up feeling ill, so he hadn't gone to work.