

Reported speech



Statements, questions,
commands and requests

Statements

- Ken: "I had a terrible row with Pauline a few days ago and she has kicked me out."
- Mike told Isobel that Mike had had a terrible row with Pauline a few days before and she had kicked him out.



What differences can you see in these two sentences?

Statements

- We use reported speech when we are telling someone what another person said or thought, but do not use their exact words.
- When we report a statement, we use reported verbs such as **say, tell, explain, inform, state, decide** etc. often followed by **that**.



Changes in reported speech

- Personal pronouns and possessive adjectives change, e.g. I → he/she, you → I/we, my → his/her, your → my etc.
- Adverbs of time: now → then, yesterday → the day before, tomorrow → the next day, today → that day, ago → before
- Adverbs of place: here → there, etc.



Tense change

- Present Simple → Past Simple
- Present Continuous → Past Continuous
- Present Perfect → Past Perfect
- Past Simple → Past Perfect
- Future → Conditional



Questions

- Mike: "What are you going to do?"
- Mike asked Ken what he was going to do.
- Mike: "Are you all right, Ken?"
- Mike asked Ken if he was all right.



What differences can you see in these sentences?

Questions

- In reported -wh questions, we use **the wh- word + the subject + the verb.**
- In reported yes/no questions, we use **if/whether + the subject + the verb.**
- We do not use the interrogative form of the verb: do/does/did
- As it is an indirect question, no question marks are used.
- We use reported verbs: **ask, wonder, want to know etc.**



Commands and requests

- Ken: "Don't spread it around, Mike."
- Ken asked Mike not to spread it around.
- Mike advised Ken: "Make it up with Pauline!"
- Mike advised Ken to make it up with Pauline.



Commands and requests

- When we report requests, orders, advice or warnings we use verbs such as **advise, ask, beg, tell, order**, etc, followed by an infinitive.
- NB In negative requests/commands use NOT before TO.



Thanks for attention!



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