

Reporting what someone said

Use

Reported speech is used to tell other people what someone has said or to pass on a message.

You often use *tell* or *say* to introduce reported statements.

Form

When using reported speech put the verbs one step back into the past and change the pronouns.

| <i>Direct Speech</i> | <i>Reported Speech</i> |
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| I'm from Korea | Nayeon said she was from Korea |
| We're going to the cinema | They said they were going to the cinema |
| I can go to the shop for you | David told me that he could go to the shop for me |
| My sister is going to Los Angeles | Lucy said that her sister is going to Los Angeles |
| Sentences in the past stay in the past simple | |
| I slept all night | He said he slept all night |
| The 'that' can be used in reported statements in written English, but not in spoken English | |
| <i>Reported speech (Written)</i> | <i>Reported Speech (Spoken)</i> |
| They told the police that the driver was a man | They told the police that the driver was a man |