


# UNIT 47

## Reported speech (1)

a) Study this example situation:



You want to tell someone else what Tom said. There are two ways of doing this:

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

Or you can use *reported* speech:  
Tom said (that) he was feeling ill.

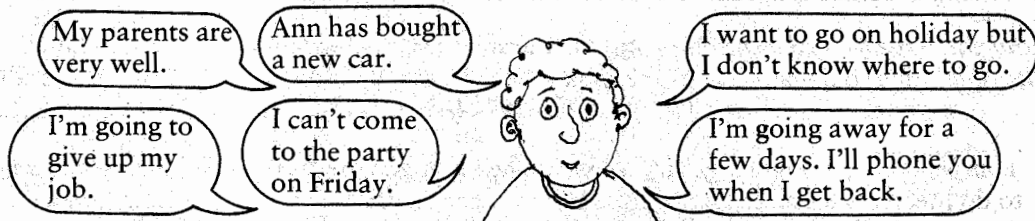
Compare the two sentences:

<i>direct</i>	Tom said 'I am feeling ill'.	you use these to show it is direct speech
<i>reported</i>	Tom said (that) he was feeling ill.	

b) When we use reported speech, we are usually talking about the past. So verbs usually change to the past in reported speech. For example:

am/is → was    are → were    have/has → had    will → would    can → could  
do/want/know etc. → did/wanted/knew etc.

Study these examples. You met Tom. Here are some things he said to you:



My parents are very well.

Ann has bought a new car.

I want to go on holiday but I don't know where to go.

I'm going to give up my job.

I can't come to the party on Friday.

I'm going away for a few days. I'll phone you when I get back.

Now you tell someone else what Tom said (in reported speech):

- Tom said (that) his parents were very well.
- Tom said (that) he was going to give up his job.
- Tom said (that) Ann had bought a new car.
- Tom said (that) he couldn't come to the party on Friday.
- Tom said (that) he wanted to go on holiday but he didn't know where to go.
- Tom said (that) he was going away for a few days and would phone me when he got back.

c) The past simple (I did) can usually stay the same in reported speech, or you can change it to the past perfect (I had done): did → did or had done

*direct* Tom said 'I woke up feeling ill and so I stayed in bed'.

*reported* Tom said (that) he woke (or had woken) up feeling ill and so he stayed (or had stayed) in bed.

For reported speech see also Units 48 and 50b.

# UNIT 47 Exercises

**47.1** Yesterday you met a friend of yours, Charlie. Charlie told you a lot of things. Here are some of the things he said to you:

- 1 I'm thinking of going to live in Canada.
- 2 My father is in hospital.
- 3 Nora and Jim are getting married next month.
- 4 I haven't seen Bill for a while.
- 5 I've been playing tennis a lot recently.
- 6 Margaret has had a baby.
- 7 I don't know what Fred is doing.
- 8 I hardly ever go out these days.
- 9 I work 14 hours a day.
- 10 I'll tell Jim I saw you.
- 11 You can come and stay with me if you are ever in London.
- 12 Tom had an accident last week but he wasn't injured.
- 13 I saw Jack at a party a few months ago and he seemed fine.

Later that day you tell another friend what Charlie said. Use reported speech.

- 1 Charlie said that he was thinking of going to live in Canada.
- 2 Charlie said that .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....
- 9 .....
- 10 .....
- 11 .....
- 12 .....
- 13 .....

**47.2** In this exercise someone says something to you which is the opposite of what they said before. You have to answer **I thought you said ...**

- Example: 'That restaurant is expensive.' 'I thought you said it wasn't expensive.'
- 1 'Ann is coming to the party.' 'I thought you said she .....
  - 2 'Bill passed his examination.' 'I thought you said .....
  - 3 'Ann likes Bill.' 'I thought .....
  - 4 'I've got many friends.' 'I thought you said you .....
  - 5 'Jack and Jill are going to get married.' '.....'
  - 6 'Tom works very hard.' '.....'
  - 7 'I want to be rich and famous.' '.....'
  - 8 'I'll be here next week.' '.....'
  - 9 'I can afford a holiday this year.' '.....'