

SESSION 9

REPORTED SPEECH

I. CONTENTS:

1. Reported speech: requests.
2. Reported speech: statements.
3. Vocabulary about excuses, pretexts, and explanations.

II. OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the SESSION, students:

- Will know how to use the different structures of the reported speech in oral and written form.
- Will be able to write sentences correctly using the reported speech and the use of these expressions.
- Will identify the main verbs that are essential for giving and indirect information or reported speech which are: *ask, say* and *tell*.

III. DISCUSSION:

Discuss the questions with your teacher and choose the most important ideas.

- How do you transmit information that was said before to another person in Spanish?
- Which are the verbs we use for doing this?
- Are there some verbs that express the same thing in English?

IV. INFORMATIONAL AND FORMATIVE TEXT

1.1. Reported speech: requests.

For pronouns and place / time expressions see statements in reported speech. Tenses are not relevant for requests – simply use, to + infinitive verb. Example: She said, Say hello to your father. – He asked me to say hello to my father.

For negative requests, use, not to + infinite verb.

Example: He said, Don't give up, Carmelo. – He advised Carmelo not to give up.

Reported Speech -Indirect Speech-

If we report what another person has said, we usually do not use the speaker's exact words - direct speech-, but reported –indirect- speech. Therefore, you need to learn how to transform direct speech into reported speech. The structure is a little different depending on whether you want to transform a statement, question or request.

Questions:

When transforming questions, check whether you have to change: pronouns, present tense verbs -3rd person singular; place and time expressions tenses –backshift-.

Also note that you have to: transform the question into an indirect question using the same question word or if / whether.

Type		Example
	direct speech	Why don't you speak Italian?
with interrogative	reported speech	He asked me why I didn't speak Italian.
without interrogative	direct speech	Do you speak Italian?

Requests:

When transforming questions, check whether you have to change: pronouns, place and time expressions:

Type	Example
Direct speech	Lucia, speak French.
Reported speech	He told Lucia to speak French.

More on the subject and Exceptions: Beside the basic rules mentioned above, there are more aspects to take into account, for example: main clauses linked with *and / but*; the tense of the introductory clause; reported speech used with difficult tenses; backshift exceptions; requests with *must, should, ought to* and *let's*.

Main Clauses linked with *and / but*: When two full main clauses are linked with *and* or *but*, use *that* following the conjunction.

Example: She said, I'm not hungry but I have to eat something. – She said that she wasn't hungry but that he had to eat something.

If the subject is mentioned in the second main clause and a verb follows the conjunction, do not use *that*. Example: He said, I work in the morning and studies at night. – He said that he worked in the morning and studied at night.

The tense of the Introductory clause. We introduce the clause using the Past Tense: Mariel said that ...

We use Present Tense to report a conversation that is still in progress, for example during a phone call or while reading a letter. Example: She is depressed. – Gerardo says that she is depressed.

Also, the introductory clause can be expressed in another tense. Next you'll see which tense of the introductory clause you have to use backshift for, when using reported speech.

No Backshift	Backshift
if introductory clause is in ...	if introductory clause is in ...
Simple Present (He says ...)	Simple Past (He said ...)
Present Perfect (He has said ...)	Past Perfect (He had said ...)
Future I will (He will say ...)	Future II (He will have said ...)
Future I going to (He is going to say ...)	Conditional I (He would say ...)
	Conditional II (He would have said ...)

Backshift in Reported Speech. The basic rules for backshift when transforming direct speech into reported speech are:

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Simple Present	Simple Past
Present Progressive	Past Progressive
Simple Past	
Present Perfect	Past Perfect Simple
Past Perfect	
Past Progressive	
Present Perfect Progressive	Past Perfect Progressive
Past Perfect Progressive	
Future I (going to)	was / were going to
Future I (will)	Conditional I
Conditional I	
Future II	Conditional II
Conditional II	

Exceptions:

Backshift of Simple Present is optional if the situation is still unchanged or if you agree with the original speaker. Carlota: Guadalajara is the capital of Jalisco. She said that Guadalajara is / was the capital of Jalisco.

Backshift of Simple Past and Past Progressive are optional if they cannot be mistakenly taken for backshift of Present Tense. So backshift is not necessary if there is a time expression indicating past. Example: He left Tepatitlan on Sunday. She said that he left / had left Tepatitlan on Sunday. Simple Past and Past Progressive do not normally change in sentences with *when/if*.

Example: When he was having breakfast, the telephone suddenly rang. He said that when he was having breakfast, the telephone suddenly rang. Example: If he had more time, He would learn French. He said that if he had more time, he would learn French.

2.1. Reported speech: statements.

If we report what another person has said, we usually do not use the speaker's exact words - direct speech-, but reported -indirect- speech. Therefore, you need to learn how to transform direct speech into reported speech. The structure is a little different depending on whether you want to transform a statement, question or request.

Statements: When transforming statements, check whether you have to change: pronouns, present tense verbs -3rd person singular-, place and time expressions, tenses -backshift-.

Type	Example
Direct speech	I speak Germany
Reported speech -no backshift-	He says that he speaks Germany
Reported speech -backshift-	He said that he spoke Germany

Statements in Reported Speech:

Pronouns:
In reported speech, you often have to change the pronoun depending on who says what. Example: He says, My father doesn't have time today. - He says that his father doesn't have time today.

Tenses. No backshift: Do not change the tense if the introductory clause is in Simple Present for example -She says-. Note, however, that you might have to change the form of the present tense verb -3rd person singular-.

Example: She says: I speak German. - She says that she speaks German. **Backshift:** You must change the tense if the introductory clause is in Simple Past for example -She said-. This is called backshift. Example: She said: I am happy. - She said that she was happy.

<u>Direct Speech</u>	<u>Reported Speech</u>
Simple Present	Simple Past
Present Progressive	Past Progressive
Simple Past	Past Perfect Simple
Present Perfect Simple	
Past Perfect Simple	
Past Progressive	
Present Perfect Progressive	Past Perfect Progressive
Past Perfect Progressive	
Future I (going to)	was / were going to
Future I (will)	Conditional I (would)
Conditional I (would)	

The verbs could, should, would, might, must, needn't, ought to, and used to, do not normally change. Example: He said, She might be right. - He said that she might be right.

Place and Time expressions:

When including place and time expressions first check whether or not place and time are the same in direct and reported speech. Read this example:



On a Saturday you meet Raul at the movies. Raul tells you that he saw Anna in this theater today. -I saw Anna here today. - Some time later, Laura joins you and you want to report what Raul has told you. Both place -here- and time -today- are the same, so you say:

- Raul said that he had seen Anna here today.
 On another day, you meet Susan at the same theater. Once again, you want to tell her what Raul told you. It's the same place but different time -it happened days before-. So you say:
 - Raul said that he had seen Anna here yesterday.



Some more days later, Carl calls you at home. Now, you want to further report to him what Raul has told you. However, now you are not at the theater, but at home, and it's some days later. So you are to say:

- Raul said that he had seen Anna at the theater on Saturday.
 - I saw Raul in the movies on Saturday and he said that he had seen Anna there on that day.

As you can see, you must always think the place and time things happen and check they are logical in each situation.

Next, you will read of ways to transform place and time expressions when using reported speech.

Direct Speech

Today
 Now
 Yesterday
 ... days ago
 last week
 next year
 tomorrow
 here
 this
 these

Reported Speech

that day
 then
 the day before
 ... days before
 the week before
 the following year
 the next day / the following day
 there
 that
 those

3.1. Vocabulary about excuses, pretexts, and explanations.

That's quite all right.	That's all right.
That's Ok. It doesn't matter.	Don't worry about it.
No problem.	It's nothing.
Sure.	It's OK. It's not a big deal.
Well, it's all right this time, but don't do it again.	I guess it's Ok, but you disappointed me.
Don't worry about it, but don't let it happen again.	I'm sorry, but I never want to see you again.
That's OK. Don't let it happen again, though.	I accept your apology.
Don't worry. It wasn't that important any way.	Excuse me
I'm Sorry	Forgive me
I apologize	Ask for forgiveness
Forgive me please; so sorry	Bad excuse is better than none
Could I be excused?	Could you excuse us, please?
Can you excuse us, please?	Would you excuse us, please?
Will you excuse us, please?	Excuse someone
Please excuse me for this mess.	Please excuse me from attending the meeting.
He who excuses himself accuses himself.	Ignorance (of the law) is no excuse (for breaking it)
May I be excused?	Use someone or something as an excuse
Would you excuse me?	You're excused.
The explanation was very simple	I heard his explanation of the accident
I demand an explanation	The event evades explanation

I'm expecting a full explanation as to why these files were destroyed	This behavior defies explanation
a clear explanation	a concise explanation
a crystal clear explanation	a meaningful explanation
a perfectly natural explanation	a transparent explanation
a verbose but meaningless explanation	an implausible explanation
getting near to the true explanation	It must not be taken away under any pretext.
Why, under the pretext of 'simplification', has it actually been attempted to subvert the 1973 directive?	I was also somewhat annoyed at the way in which both implementation and control are being relinquished, particularly under the pretext of transparency.
Under the pretext of development aid, the Union has set up a costly and inefficient organization of the market.	That is inadmissible, especially as fundamental civil rights seem to be squandered under the pretext of the United State's fight against crime
What will the Commission do to stop Member States introducing protectionist measures under the pretext of public health?	Under the guise of harmonization, you will destroy social security.
Yet they took no action, under the pretext of the spurious, hence costly slogan: "Corruption is better than Communism"	We cannot bring back the olden days on the pretext of fighting terrorism.
Furthermore, information was withheld, on the pretext of not causing panic.	On the pretext of 'streamlining', the text calls for a reduction of the productive capacities of these countries.

Reasons and excuses:

Reason: A fact, situation, or intention that explains why something happened, why someone did something, or why something is true.

Excuse: A reason that you give to explain why you have done something bad, or why you have not done something that you should have done.

Point: The reason for something.

Cause: A reason for behaving in a particular way or for feeling a particular emotion.

Occasion: A reason for something.

Motive: The reason that you do something.

Motivation: A reason for doing something.

Pretext: A reason that you pretend to have in order to hide your real reason or intention.

Ground: A reason for what you say or do, or for being allowed to say or do something.

In justification of something: giving reasons why something is true or right.