**REPORTED SPEECH**

**SAY-TELL**

\* TELL is always followed by a personal object (told me)

\* SAY is used with or without a personal object. When used with a personal object it is always followed by the preposition to (said to me)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DIRECT SPEECH | REPORTED SPEECH |
| He said, “I’m Ted.” | He said (that) he was Ted. |
| He said to me, “I’m Ted.” | He said to me (that) he was Ted |
| He told me, “I’m Ted.” | He told me (that) he was Ted |

SAY and TELL are also used with the following expressions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| say | Good morning/afternoon, etc., something/nothing, etc., one’s prayers, so, a few words |
| tell | The truth, a lie, a secret, a story, the time, the difference, sb one’s name, sb the way, one from another, one’s fortune |

**FILL IN THE GAPS WITH SAY OR TELL IN THE CORRECT TENSE.**

A.- Katie (1) … Dave that she had met a set of twins at a party. “They looked exactly the same,” she (2) … . I couldn’t (3) … the difference between them.” I’ve got a twin brother, too (4) … Dave. “Are you (5) … me the truth?” Asked Katie. “(6) … me his name.” “His name is Stephen,” Dave (7) … her. “I’ll take you to meet him tomorrow.”

B.- ‘You never listen to me,’ Tara(1) … Jim. ‘I (2) … good morning to you three times today and you didn’t answer,’ she (3) … . ‘To (4) … you the truth, it makes me really angry. Why don’t you listen to me?’ ‘Oh, hello Tara,’ said Jim. ‘Did you just (5) … something?’

C.- ‘Claire (1) … me that she and John are getting married,’(2) … Sue. ‘She (3) … that they’re going to have a big wedding with lots of guests.’ ‘That will be expensive,’ (4) … Tom. ‘I thought John (5) … that they couldn’t afford a big wedding.’ ‘Well that’s what Claire (6) … me’, (7) …Sue. ‘I don’t think she would (8) … a lie.

**WE USUALLY REPORT SOMEONE’S WORDS A LONG TIME AFTER THE WERE SAID. IN THIS CASE THE INTRODUCTORY VERB IS IN THE PAST SIMPLE AND THE TENSES CHANGE AS FOLLOWS:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DIRECT SPEECH** | **REPORTED SPEECH** |
| Present simple |  |
| Present continuous |  |
| Present perfect |  |
| Past simple |  |
| Past continuous |  |
| Future (will) |  |

The past perfect and the past perfect continuous remain the same.

CERTAIN WORDS AND TIME EXPRESSION CHANGE ACCORDING TO THE MEANING OF THE SENTENC AS FOLLOWS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DIRECT SPEECH** | **REPORTED SPEECH** |
| now | Then, at that time, immediately |
| Today, tonight | That day, that night |
| yesterday | The day before, the previous day |
| Tomorrow |  |
| This week |  |
| Last week |  |
| Next week |  |
| Two days ago |  |
| Two days ago |  |
| Here |  |
| Come |  |

CERTAIN MODAL VERBS CHANGE IN REPORTED SPEECH AS FOLLOWS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Will/shall | Would |
| May | Might |
| Can | Could/would be able to |
| Must | Must/had to (obligation) |
| Shall | Should (asking for advice) |

WOULD, COULD, MIGHT, SHOULD. OUGHT TO, HAD BETTER AND MUSTN’T DO NOT CHANGE IN REPORTED SPEECH. MUST DOES NOT CHANGE IN REPORTED SPEECH WHEN IT EXPRESSES A LOGICAL ASSUMPTION.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DIRECT SPEECH** | **REPORTED SPEECH** |
| He said, ‘I’ll have some tea’. |  |
| He said, ‘She can type fast.’ |  |
| He said, I can talk to you tomorrow.’ |  |
| He said, ‘They may come home.’ |  |
| He said, ‘What shall I tell her?’ |  |
| He said, ‘You must stay in.’ |  |
| He said, ‘She must be exhausted.’ |  |

**REPORTED QUESTIONS**

- Reported questions are usually introduced with the verbs ASK, INQUIRE, WONDER or the expression WANT TO KNOW.

- When the direct question begins with a question Word (WHO, WHERE, HOW OLD, HOW LONG, WHEN, WHY, WHAT, etc.) the reported question is introduced with the same question Word.

e.g. ‘What do you want to know?’, she asked me.

She asked me what I wanted to know.

- When the direct question begins with an auxiliary (BE, DO, HAVE) or a modal verb (CAN, MAY, etc.), then the reported question begins with IF or WHETHER.

e.g. ‘Have you seen that man before?’ he asked me

He asked me if/whether I had seen that man before

1.- ‘Where do you live?’ I asked her.

2.- ‘How old will you be on your next birthday?’ he asked me.

3.- ‘Where is your umbrella?’ she asked her daughter.

4.- ‘Do you like playing football?’ John asked us.

5.- The boss asked, ‘What time are you going home today?’

6.- Will you take the children to school today?’ he asked.

7.- ‘Who called you today?’ she asked.

8.- ‘When will you decórate the kitchen?’ Martha asked.

9.- ‘Who broke my vase?’ I asked.

10.- Father asked, ‘Will you help me lift these boxes, please?’

11.- ‘Can you speak a foreign language?’ she asked her.

12.- ‘Where is the tourist information centre?’ we asked.