

Reported Questions

When we report in the present a question emitted in the past, we can use quotation marks ('...') in order to respect its original idea or message, but another way to do it is by using **Reported Questions**.

Read the questions asked by the reporter in the picture below.



Here are the same the questions above but now as Reported questions.

With Information

With Yes/No Questions

↘ ↙
(Someone) asked + Wh-/if + **subject** + **verb** + complement

*The reporter asked how **her** family was.*

*The reporter asked if **she** would visit Mexico again.*

-Notice that in each case the question itself disappears.

-Observe that we introduce the idea by adding the phrase *The reporter asked how...* and *The reporter asked if...*

Reported Questions

-Notice that in Reported Questions, the **pronoun(s)**, the **original tense**, and the **possessive adjectives** change, the same way as happened with Reported speech sentences:

- Present changes to Past
- *Can* changes to *Could*
- *Will* changes to *Would*

-Notice the order of the elements conforming the sentences.

Here are more examples of Reported speech. Do not forget the following rules:

- Reported questions begin with starters like (*She asked wh-/if...*)
- Notice the change in **the tense** of the original sentence.
- Notice that the **Possessives** (*my, your, our, their, his, her, its*) have to be changed, too, in order to adapt the idea.

When the original question (direct) is expressed in **Present**, the Reported question is expressed in **Past**. For example:

(Present)

Anna:

"Are **you** coming to the party?"

(Past)

*Anna asked me if **I** was coming to the party.*

Roberto:

"Cristina, where **are** you staying in Mexico?"

*Roberto asked Cristina where **she** was staying in Mexico.*

Maria:

"Where **do** you **work**, Patricia?"

"Do you **have** brothers?"

*Maria asked Patricia where **she** worked.
She asked her if **she** had brothers.*

Reported Questions

When the original (direct) question is expressed with *can*, the Reported question is expressed with *could*. For example:

Alan:

“Where **can** I buy milk?”

“Do you **like** chocolate, Paco?”

*Alan asked where **he could** buy milk.*

*He asked Paco if **he liked** chocolate.*

When the original question is expressed with *will*, the Reported question is expressed with *would*. For example:

Fabrizio:

“**Will** you stay in Veracruz for a week, Bob?” *Fabrizio asked Bob if **he would** stay in Veracruz for a week.*