

Reported Speech

When we communicate in the present a discourse 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 speech.

A situation where Reported speech can be used is the following. Observe the way this reporter expresses in each case. She introduces the ideas with phrases like *Angelina said that...*, and *She told me that...* Notice the changes suffered by the **pronoun(s)**, the **original tense**, and even the **possessive adjectives**:



I am happy to visit Mexico.

I love spending my vacation here.

After the interview:



Angelina said that she was happy to visit Mexico.

She told me that she loved spending her vacation here.

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

- Reported speech sentences begin with sentence starters like *She said that...*, *He told me that...*, *The man insisted that...*, *Johnny admitted that...*, etc.
- 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.

Reported Speech

When the original speech is expressed in **Present**, the Reported speech sentence is expressed in **Past**. For example:

(Present)

(Past)

Anna:

"I **am** happy to visit Mexico."

*Anna said that she **was** happy to visit Mexico.*

Roberto:

"I **love** spending **my** vacation here."

*Roberto said that he **loved** spending **his** vacation here.*

Maria:

"**The beaches** are fantastic."

*Maria told me that **the beaches** were fantastic.*

"I **don't have** more free time."

*She told me that she **didn't have** more free time.*

When the original speech is expressed with **can**, the Reported speech sentence is expressed with **could**. For example:

Alan:

"**We can** stay here only for a week."

*He explained that **they could** stay here only for a week.*

"I **can't** visit all the places I **wish**."

*He said that he **couldn't** visit all the places he **wished**.*

Reported Speech

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

Fabrizio:

“I **will** stay in Veracruz for a few days.”

He said that he would stay in Veracruz for a few days.

“We **will** not stop working on **our** project.”

He said that they would not stop working on their project.