

Handout 3 - Reported Speech

Direct speech	Reported speech
<p>Direct speech repeats the exact words that somebody said or wrote: Newspapers wrote, "Sweden is moving to a six-hour work day." Tara Sinclair said, "The results don't mean Sweden's six-hour workday is myth." Psychologists warned, "Shorter working days can put extra pressure on workers to do more work in less time."</p>	<p>Reported speech reports what somebody said without repeating the exact words: Newspapers reported that Sweden was moving to a six-hour work day. Tara Sinclair said the results don't mean Sweden's six-hour workday is a myth. Psychologists warned that shorter working days could put extra pressure on workers to do more work in less time.</p>

Read the rules for forming reported speech and give examples from the table.

1. The tense of the verb in **direct speech** often changes in **reported speech**.

am/is/are → was/were

simple present → simple past

can → could

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2. It's not necessary to change the tense if the reported situation is still true. Peter said that he **was** at home. (*Maybe he is still at home now. Maybe he isn't.*)

Peter said he **is** at home. (*He's still at home now.*)

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3. After the reporting verb (*said, warned, reported, etc.*), we can use **that** or nothing.
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Complete the sentences. Change the tense

1. "We often work overtime." — They told me that they often worked overtime.
2. "I can't speak Russian." — She told me that she _____ Russian.
3. "It's raining again." — He said it _____ again.
4. "Our new office is great." — They said that their new office great.
5. "I don't have a lot of work to do." — She said that she _____ a lot of work to do.
6. "I'm going to spend time with my family." — He said he _____ time with his family.
7. "I don't know where he works." — She said that she _____ where he _____.
8. "We can't work flexible hours." — They told me that they _____ flexible hours.