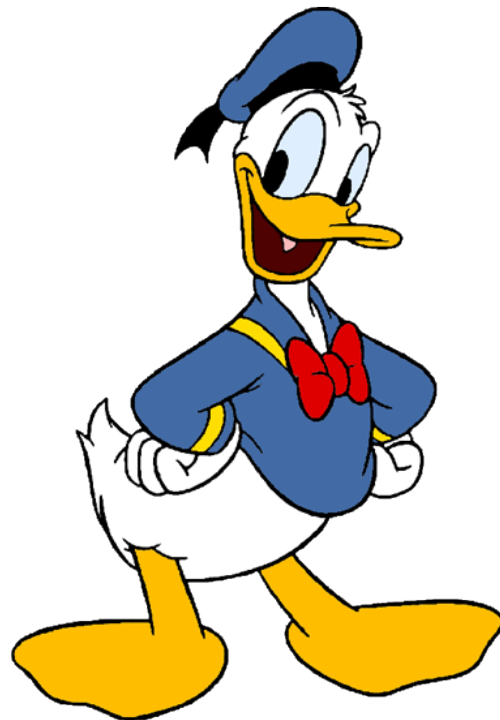


# Direct speech and reported speech



**Who said  
that?**

# Talking about talking ... and writing about talking

To tell our audience or readers that someone said something,

we have to give this information:

- **who said it;**
- **what they said;** and sometimes
- **how they spoke** or what they were doing at the time.

# There are two ways to do it...

- **Direct speech** and
- **reported speech**
- LO: To be able to use direct and reported speech
- Success criteria:
- I know the difference between direct speech and reported speech;
- I can convert direct speech into reported speech;
- I can reconstruct direct speech from reported speech.

# What's the difference?

## Direct speech

We usually use it in telling a straightforward narrative (story).

Direct speech uses the speaker's actual words:

What he or she said is what you write...

**inside speech marks of course.**

“ ... ”

## Reported speech

We usually use it if we **don't** want or need to say the person's **exact words**.

It can sound a little more formal. It's less immediate, but it can still be useful in telling a story.

It can make a change from dialogue.

# Direct speech uses:

- Speech marks, also called “inverted commas”
- the person’s actual words
- In dialogue, use *New Speaker, New Line*
- Narration about who said it can go **before, after** or **amongst** the speaker’s actual words.

# Direct speech uses:

Speech marks or  
inverted commas

Examples:

John said, "I'm late."

"I'm late," John gasped.

"I'm late," gasped John.



# When we write direct speech:

In dialogue: remember

*New Speaker – New Line*

Example:

“I’m late,” gasped John.

*New line*

“Don’t worry,” Evie reassured him. “We’ll be in plenty of time for the bus.”

*New line*

“Are you sure?” John muttered anxiously.

How do we know who says  
“We’ll be in plenty of time  
for the bus”?



# When we write direct speech:

Narration about  
who said it can go

**before,**  
**after** or

**in amongst**  
**(between)**

the speaker's actual  
words.

Examples – **before:**

John said, "I'm late."

**After:**

"I'm late," John gasped.

"I'm late," gasped John.

**Between/amongst:**

"Oh no," gasped John, "I'm going to be late."

"Don't worry," Evie reassured him. "We'll be in plenty of time for the bus."



# Reported speech

- doesn't use speech marks
- changes pronouns, and often also changes word order
- adjusts verb tenses (and time phrases if necessary)
- usually starts by telling you who spoke
- often uses "that..." - but you can omit it
- sometimes changes the verb too.

# Reported speech:

- Doesn't use speech marks.

John said "He was going to be late." Who is he talking about?  
John said he was going to be late. Who is John talking about now?
- Changes pronouns.

"I'm late," said John.  
John said **he** was late.
- Often changes word order.

"**Am I** late?" John wondered.  
John wondered whether **he was** late.

# Reported speech **adjusts verb tenses**

“**I’m** (present tense) late,” John muttered anxiously.

John muttered anxiously that he **was** (past tense) late.

“**We’ll** be in plenty of time for the bus,” Evie reassured him.

Evie reassured him that they **would** be in plenty of time for the bus.

“I **missed** the bus yesterday,” John admitted.

John admitted that he **had missed** the bus the day before. (past perfect or pluperfect tense)

## Reported speech **adjusts time phrases**

“I missed the bus **yesterday**,” John admitted.

John admitted that he had missed the bus **the day before**.

“We’re going to see our grandad **tomorrow**,” Hassan reminded them.

Hassan reminded them that they were going to see their grandad **the next day**.

Katie announced: “I’m leaving **this afternoon**.”

Katie announced that she would be leaving **that afternoon**.

# Reported speech usually uses “that...” – but you can omit it

“I’m going to be late,”  
John said.

John said **that** he was  
going to be late.



**OR:**

“I’m going to be late,”  
John said.

John said he was going to  
be late.



Which do you prefer?

Reported speech sometimes changes  
the verb too.

“I’m going to be late,” John muttered anxiously.  
You could say: John **worried** that he was going  
to be late.

“Hey, Femi, look at this lemon-squeezer I’ve  
found,” Edward called excitedly.

You could say: Edward excitedly **showed** Femi  
the lemon-squeezer he had found.

“Sorry I’m late,” gasped John.

You could say: John **apologised** for being late.

Take care when you are converting reported speech to direct speech.

Imagine the person talking.

What words did they actually say?

Mr Fitzpatrick asked Lisa what she was doing with the baboon.

**What were Mr Fitzpatrick's actual words?**

“What are you doing with that baboon, Lisa?” asked Mr Fitzpatrick.

OR:

“Lisa,” called Mr Fitzpatrick, “what are you doing with the baboon?”