

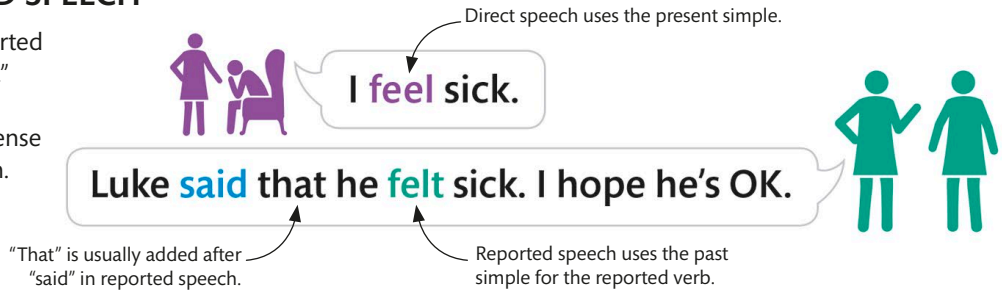
43 Reported speech

The words that people say are called direct speech. Reported speech is often used to describe what someone said at an earlier point in time.

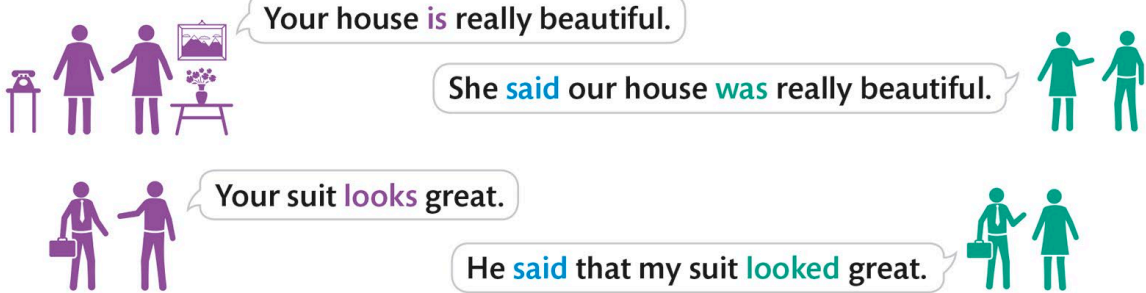
See also:
Present simple **1** Past simple **7**
Types of verbs **49**

43.1 REPORTED SPEECH

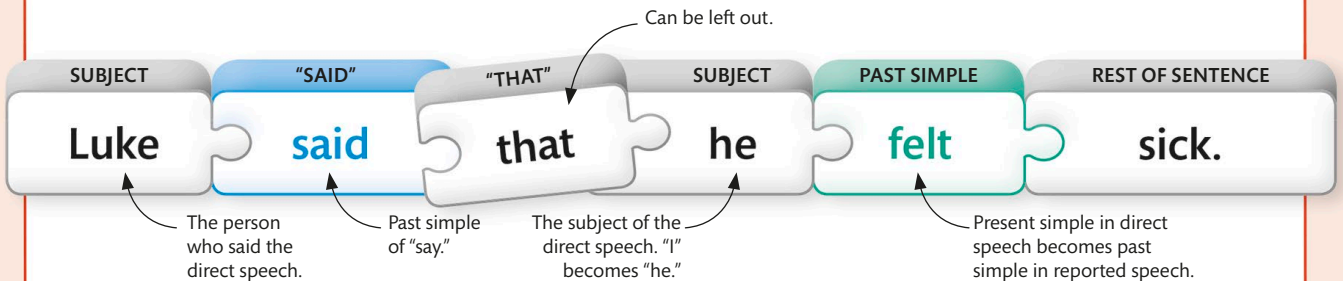
The main verb in reported speech is usually "said." The reported verb is usually in a different tense from the direct speech.



FURTHER EXAMPLES



HOW TO FORM



43.2 "TELL" IN REPORTED SPEECH

In reported speech, "tell" can also be used as the main verb. It must be followed by an object, which shows who someone is talking to.

I **want** to learn to drive.



"Say" does not need to be followed by an object.

He { **said**
told me } that he **wanted** to learn to drive.



"Tell" must be followed by an object.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



She **told me** that she **was** at the party.



She **told me** that she **had** a very stressful job.



He **told us** he **arrived** late to the meeting.



They **told us** they **bought** a new house.



I **told her** that I **went** abroad last year.

"That" can also be left out in reported speech with "told."



We **told them** that we **didn't** want it.

! COMMON MISTAKES "SAY" AND "TELL" IN REPORTED SPEECH

He **said** that he had a fast car. ✓

He **told me** that he had a fast car. ✓

He **said me** that he had a fast car. ✗

He **told** that he had a fast car. ✗

"Said" cannot have an object.

"Told" must have an object.