

46 Reported speech with negatives

Negatives in reported speech are formed in the same way as negatives in direct speech. "Not" is used with the auxiliary, or with the main verb if there is no auxiliary.

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46.1 REPORTING NEGATIVE AUXILIARIES

When the direct speech is negative using "do not," "is not," and "has not," "do," "is," or "has" changes tense, rather than the main verb.



I **don't** work on weekends.


Present simple negative.




He said he **didn't** work on weekends.

Past simple negative.


FURTHER EXAMPLES




I **don't** want to drive. I'd rather walk.




Sue said she **didn't** want to drive. She'd rather walk.




The car **isn't** starting.



They told me the car **wasn't** starting.



They **haven't** arrived on time because of the car.



Fay said they **hadn't** arrived on time because of the car.

46.2 REPORTING OTHER VERBS WITH NEGATIVES

If a reporting verb is followed by an object and an infinitive, "not" goes between the object and the infinitive to form the negative.



You shouldn't sign the contract.

Our lawyer **advised** me **not** to sign the contract.



"Not" makes the reported speech negative.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



Don't eat any more cake. It's bad for you.

I think I **persuaded** Evan **not** to eat any more cake.



Don't go in the water. It's dangerous.

The lifeguard **warned** me **not** to go in the water.



I don't think you should stand so near the edge.

My friend **warned** me **not** to stand near the edge.



You must not lose your passport while you're away.

My dad **reminded** me **not** to lose my passport.



Don't draw on the walls!

My dad **told** me **not** to draw on the walls.

