

Universidad de Los Andes
Facultad de Humanidades y Educación
Escuela de Idiomas Modernos

Practicing Reported Speech

I. Change the sentences to reported speech. Use formal sequence of tenses.

1. Tom said, "I am busy." → Tom said that he _____ busy.
2. Tom said, "I need some help." → Tom said that he _____ some help.
3. Tom said, "I am having a good time." → Tom said that he _____ a good time.
4. Tom said, "I have finished my work." → Tom said that he _____ his work.
5. Tom said, "I finished it an hour ago." → Tom said that he _____ it an hour ago.
6. Tom said, "I will arrive at noon." → Tom said that he _____ at noon.
7. Tom said, "I am going to be there at noon." → Tom said that he _____ there at noon.
8. Tom said, "I can solve that problem." → Tom said that he _____ that problem.
9. Tom said, "I may come early." → Tom said that he _____ early.
10. Tom said, "I might come early." → Tom said that he _____ early.
11. Tom said, "I must leave at eight." → Tom said that he _____ at eight.
12. Tom said, "I have to leave at eight." → Tom said that he _____ at eight.
13. Tom said, "I should go to the library." → Tom said that he _____ to the library.
14. Tom said, "I ought to go to the library." → Tom said that he _____ to the library.
15. Tom said, "Stay here." → Tom told me _____ here.
16. Tom said, "Don't move." → Tom told me _____.
17. Tom said, "Are you comfortable?" → Tom asked me if I _____ comfortable.
18. Tom said, "When did you arrive?" → Tom asked me when I _____.

II. Complete the sentences by changing the sentences to reported speech. Use formal sequence of tenses as appropriate. (Pay attention to whether the reporting verb is past or present.)

1. *I asked Martha, "Are you planning to enter law school?"*
I asked Martha _____ to enter law school.
2. *Ed just asked me, "What time does the movie begin?"*
Ed wants to know _____.
3. *Fred asked, "Can we still get tickets for the concert?"*
Fred asked _____ tickets for the concert.
4. *Thomas said to us, "How can I help you?"*
Thomas wanted to know _____ us.
5. *Eva asked, "Can you help me, John?"*
Eva asked John _____ her.
6. *Charles said, "When will the final decision be made?"*
Charles wanted to know _____.
7. *Frank asked Elizabeth, "Where have you been all afternoon?"*
Frank asked Elizabeth _____ all afternoon.
8. *Bill just said, "What is Kim's native language?"*
Bill wants to know _____.

9. *Yesterday Ron said to Bob, "What's the problem?"*
Ron asked Bob _____.
10. *I asked myself, "Am I doing the right thing?"*
I wondered _____ the right thing.
11. *All of the farmers are asking, "When is this terrible drought going to end?"*
All of the farmers are wondering _____ to end.
12. *George asked me, "What time do I have to be at the laboratory in the morning?"*
George asked me _____ to be at the laboratory in the morning.
13. *Beth asked, "Who should I give this message to?"*
Beth asked me _____.
14. *Our tour guide said, "We'll be leaving around 7:00 in the morning."*
Our tour guide told us _____ around 7:00 in the morning.
15. *Nancy asked, "Why didn't you call me?"*
Nancy wanted to know _____ her.

III. Complete the sentences using the information in the dialogue. Use past verb forms in the noun clauses if appropriate and possible.

1. *Joanne asked me, "Do you know Dave Clark?"*
"Yes," I replied. "I've known him for many years. Why do you want to know?"
Joanne asked me if _____ Dave Clark. I replied that I _____ him for many years and asked her why she _____ to know.
2. *I asked Mary, "Why do you still smoke?"*
Mary replied, "I've tried to quit many times, but I just don't seem to be able to."
When I asked Mary why she _____, she replied that she _____ to quit many times, but she just _____ to be able to.
3. *The teacher asked, "Bobby, what is the capital of Australia?"*
Bobby replied, "I'm not sure, but I think it's Sydney."
Yesterday in class, Bobby's teacher asked him _____. He answered that he _____ sure, but that he _____ Sydney.
4. *The children inquired of their father, "Will we be able to visit the Air and Space Museum and the Natural History Museum, too?"*
Their father said, "We will if we leave the hotel before 10 o'clock tomorrow morning."
The children asked their father whether they _____ able to visit the Air and Space Museum and the Natural History Museum, too. He told them they _____ if they _____ the hotel before 10 o'clock the next morning.
5. *I told Jenny, "It's pouring outside. You'd better take an umbrella."*
Jenny said, "It'll stop soon. I don't need one."
I told Jenny that it _____ outside and that she _____ an umbrella. However, Jenny said she thought the rain _____ soon and that she _____ one.

6. *"Where are you going, Ann?" I asked.*
"I'm on my way to the market," she replied. "Do you want to come with me?"
"I'd like to, but I have to stay home. I have a lot of work to do."
"Okay," Ann said. "Is there anything I can pick up for you at the market?"
"How about a few bananas? And some apples if they're fresh?"
"Sure. I'd be happy to."

When I asked Ann where she _____, she said she _____ on her way to the market and _____ me to come with her. I said I _____ to, but that I _____ to stay home because I _____ a lot of work to do. Ann kindly asked me if there _____ anything she _____ pick up for me at the market. I asked her to pick up a few bananas and some apples if they _____ fresh. She said she'd be happy to.

7. *"Where are you from?" asked the passenger sitting next to me on the plane.*
"Chicago," I said.
"That's nice. I'm from Mapleton. It's a small town in northern Michigan. Have you heard of it?"
"Oh yes, I have," I said. "Michigan is a beautiful state. I've been there on vacation many times."
"Were you in Michigan on vacation this year?"
"No. I went far away from home this year. I went to India," I replied.
"Oh, that's nice. Is it a long drive from Chicago to India?" she asked me. My mouth fell open. I didn't know how to respond. Some people certainly need to study geography.

The passenger sitting next to me on the plane _____ me where I _____ from. I _____ her I _____ from Chicago. She _____ that she _____ from Mapleton, a small town in northern Michigan. She wondered if I _____ of it, and I told her that I _____. I went on to say that I thought Michigan _____ a beautiful state and explained that I _____ there on vacation many times. She _____ me if I _____ in Michigan on vacation this year. I replied that I _____ and _____ her that I _____ far away, to India. Then she asked me if it _____ a long drive from Chicago to India! My mouth fell open. I didn't know how to respond. Some people certainly need to study geography.

- IV. Restate the given sentences. Choose the most appropriate reporting verb in parentheses. Make it active or passive as appropriate. Include an infinitive in the completion and any other necessary words.

EXAMPLE 1: The teacher said to Jim, "Would you give your book to Mary, please?"
(ask tell, order)

The teacher asked Jim to give his book to Mary.

EXAMPLE 2. The sign said, "No parking in this area. Violators will be towed away."
(invite, warn, force)

Drivers were warned not to park in the area.

1. Before Bobby went to bed, his father said, "Don't forget to brush your teeth."
(*invite, allow, remind*)
Before Bobby went to bed, his father _____ his teeth.
2. Under the law, drivers and all passengers must wear seat belts while in a moving vehicle.
(*encourage, require, permit*)
Drivers and passengers _____ seat belts while in a moving vehicle.
3. When I asked the nurse about my skin rash, she said, "You should consult a dermatologist."
(*ask, permit, advise*)
The nurse _____ a dermatologist.
4. The fire chief said, "Everyone must leave the building immediately."
(*order, remind, allow*)
Everyone _____ the building immediately.
5. The instructor said to the students, "You will have exactly one hour to complete the exam."
(*order, expect, warn*)
The students _____ the exam in one hour.
6. *Because he forgot last year, I told my husband several times that he should buy some flowers for his mother on Mother's Day.*
(*remind, require, allow*)
I _____ some flowers for his mother on Mother's Day.
7. My garage mechanic said, "You should get a tune-up every 5,000 miles."
(*ask, order, advise*)
My garage mechanic _____ a tune-up every 5,000 miles.
8. *The factory manager said to the employees, "Do not come late. If you do, you will lose your jobs."*
(*ask, warn, encourage*)
The employees _____ late.
9. The sign on the side door says, "Do not enter," so we have to use a different door.
(*ask, permit, force*)
Nobody _____ the side door.
10. The little girl said to her father, "Daddy, I really like this tricycle. Can we buy it?"
(*require, ask, advise*)
The little girl _____ the tricycle for her.
11. We often told our grandfather, "Your experiences as a sailor in the navy were fascinating. You should write a book about them."
(*remind, encourage, require*)
We _____ a book about his experiences in the navy.
12. The judge said to the defendant, "You must not shout in the courtroom again."
(*ask, order, encourage*)
The defendant _____ in the courtroom again.

V. Report what the speakers say by using a verb from the following list and an infinitive phrase. Use each verb in the list only once. Make your sentence passive if the speaker is not specifically identified. VERBS: *advise, ask, invite, remind, allow, encourage, order, warn.*

EXAMPLE: During the water shortage, someone in authority said to the public, "Curtail your use of water as much as possible."

During the water shortage, the public was asked to curtail its use of water as much as possible.

1. Laura said to her roommate, "Don't forget to set your alarm clock for 6:00."

2. The doctor said to my father, "It would be best if you limited your sugar consumption."

3. My parents often said to me, "Good for you! It's good to be independent!"

4. Someone said to the children, "Don't swim in the lake without an adult present."

5. The police officer shouted to the reckless driver, "Pull over!"

6. Rose said to Jerry, "I'd like you to come to my house Sunday night to meet my parents."
