

## 21 Reporting Speech

**Practice Run 1** *Change these examples into conveyed speech. Make sure that you use an apt verb in the reporting clause.*

The driving instructor <b>told me to</b>	<b>turn left at the traffic lights.</b>
The head teacher <b>instructed the boys</b>	<b>not to smoke behind the bike shed.</b>
This morning my husband <b>reminded me</b>	<b>to bring home the bacon.</b>
Mary <b>admonished</b> the little boy:	<b>not to be rude to <i>his</i> grandmother.</b>
My teacher <b>recommended</b>	<b>that I work harder this year.</b>
John's friends <b>advised</b> him:	<b>not to get up to <i>his</i> silly pranks with Mary.</b>
She <b>demanded</b>	<b>to have a word with the manager."</b>
Mr and Ms Green <b>requested that</b>	<i>their</i> names not be mentioned in connection with this story.

**Practice Run 2** *Look at the following conveyed report structures and try to reconstruct the utterance they report.*

conveyed speech	quoted speech	subject of reported clause = subject of reporting clause
I said I'd inform the students.	I said, "I will inform the students."	<input type="checkbox"/> true
I said she/he/they could give me a ring if she/he/they needed help.	I said, "You can give me a ring if you need help."	<input type="checkbox"/> false
I said we'd call before we leave.	I said, "We will call before we leave."	<input type="checkbox"/> true
You said you could never leave the castle.	You said, "I can never leave the castle."	<input type="checkbox"/> false
You said I was great.	You said to me, "You are great."	<input type="checkbox"/> false object of reporting clause is subject of reported clause
You told your ex that s/he was great.	You said to her/him "You are great."	<input type="checkbox"/> false object of reporting clause is subject of reported clause
She said she couldn't work with Jamie anymore.	She said, "I can't work with Jamie anymore."	<input type="checkbox"/> true
They promised that they would come to see us when they were in London.	They said, "We will come to see you when we are in London."	<input type="checkbox"/> true

**Practice Run 3** Find the correct question word for the following examples and then turn the sentences into a indirect question / conveyed speech clause construction. You will also have to come up with a reporting or main clause.

Mary wanted to know	how	things were with my brother?
John is asking	what	you are thinking about coming over tonight?
She was wondering	whether	you can/could remember her name?
My sister isn't sure	if	he knows that it gives him a bad hangover?
Mother asked	whether	Joe always drinks too much?
The police are enquiring	where	Mary lives?
I would like to know	which	house Mary's is?
He is puzzling	when	the match is this afternoon?
The tourist was asking	where	the nearest tube station was?
I really ask myself	what	the point (is) in coming to these meetings is?
I'm not sure at all	whether	I should care about such a rotten lot?
I have no idea	what	time the train leaves?

how, what, when, where, which, why, Ø

*How can these examples be changed into conveyed speech?*

1. Jane always says, "I don't like having to come in on a Friday."	Jane always says she doesn't like coming/going in on a Friday.
2. "Call me when you get home," said Peter.	Peter said I/we should call him when I/we got home.
3. "I have been waiting for thirty-one minutes," Joe complained.	Joe complained he had been waiting for 31 minutes.
4. Joe is on the phone and says: "I have been waiting for thirty-one minutes."	Joe is on the phone and is saying that he has been waiting for 31 minutes
5. "Why should I go to all this trouble?" asked Kevin.	Kevin asked why he should go to all this (that) trouble.
6. "I can speak three languages," said Martha.	Martha said she can speak three languages.
7. I said to the children: "Meet me here tomorrow."	I told the children to meet me there/here tomorrow/the following day.
8. The quizmaster asked the candidate: "Which piggy do you want?" "Not that one," he answered. "I'll have this one."	The quizmaster asked the candidate which piggy s/he wanted. Not the one over there, he answered, but he would have that/this one.
9. "I like my new job very much," said the lecturer.	The lecturer said s/he liked her/his new job very much
10. "Our interest in reporting speech vanished three weeks ago", the students complained last week.	The students complained last week that their interest in reporting speech had vanished three weeks earlier (four week ago).