

Reported Speech

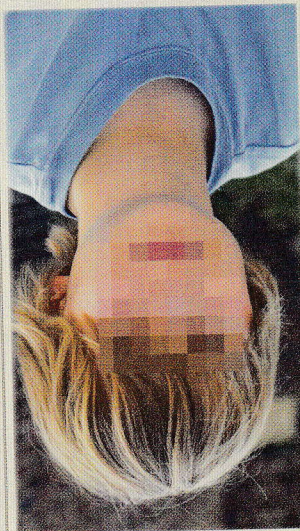
I can report what other people have said

- 1 Read this true story and answer the questions.

What happened:

- yesterday?
- five years ago?
- two weeks ago?
- before that?

Mystery German



Yesterday, a boy walked out of a German forest. He spoke fluent English and broken German. He told the police that his first name was Ray and he was probably seventeen. He said his father had died two weeks ago and he had buried him in the forest. He also told them that he had lived in the forest for about five years but he couldn't remember anything about his life before that. The police told reporters that Berlin Youth Services were looking after him until they could find out his identity.

- 2 Compare the Direct Speech 1–5 below with the Reported Speech in blue in the text. What changes are there to the verb forms and the pronouns?

- 1 'My first name is Ray and I'm probably seventeen.'
- 2 'My father died two weeks ago.'
- 3 'I've lived in the forest for about five years.'
- 4 'I can't remember anything.'
- 5 'Berlin Youth Services are looking after him.'

- 3 Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS. Which verb forms complete the examples correctly?

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Reported Speech

In Reported Speech verb forms and pronouns change depending on the context.

Direct Speech

→ **Present Simple** 'I work,' she said.

→ **Present Continuous** 'He's working,' we said.

→ **Present Perfect** 'We've worked,' he said.

→ **Past Simple** 'She worked,' they said.

→ **Past Simple** She said she worked.

→ **Past Continuous** They said he was working.

→ **Past Perfect** He said they had worked.

→ **Past Perfect** They said she had worked.

REMEMBER THIS

Say + (that) something
He said his father had died two weeks ago.
Tell + somebody + (that) something
He told the police (that) his first name was Ray.

- 4 Six months later, the Berlin police reported statements in Reported Speech. Begin your sentences with *They said ...*

- 1 'We looked everywhere for information about Ray.'
- 2 'We put a photo of him in newspapers around Europe.'
- 3 'His school friends in Holland saw the photo and contacted us.'
- 4 'We now know that Ray's real name is Robin van Heismus.'
- 5 'He is going back home very soon.'
- 6 'His lies have cost the German police over £20,000.'

5 Which option is correct?

- 1 My teacher said / told me I wasn't concentrating.
- 2 He said / told I looked tired.
- 3 I said / told him that I hadn't slept very well.
- 4 I said / told I had watched a really scary film.
- 5 I said / told him that was why I hadn't done my homework.
- 6 He said / told I'd used that excuse before!

- 6 In your notebook, rewrite the sentences in Exercise 5 in Direct Speech.

1 *You aren't concentrating.*

7 In pairs, complete the task.

- 1 Tell your partner five true facts about yourself. Use some 'facts' from the box or your own ideas.

I am/am not tired
I can/can't snowboard
I like/don't like politics
I've been/haven't been to London
I'm going out/not going out tonight
I watched/didn't watch TV last night

- 2 Your partner then reports back. How many facts can your partner remember correctly?

A: You said you could snowboard.

B: Yes, that's right.

A: You said you liked politics.

B: No, I said I didn't like politics.