Reported Speech: Gossip, News, and "He Said, She Said"

Level: B1-B2 Intermediate

Today, we will explore how to share news, relay messages, and talk about what other people said using **reported speech**!

Warm-up Questions

Discuss these questions with us:

1. Do you prefer reading the official news, or hearing updates from friends?
2. Have you ever seen a message change completely while being passed from person to person?
3. How do you usually react when someone tells you a surprising secret?





Grammar Rules: Reported Speech

When we report what someone said, we usually shift the tense back one step in the past.

- **Present Simple** becomes **Past Simple.**
  "We love this city." -> Reported: They said they loved that city.
- **Present Continuous** becomes **Past Continuous.**
  "She is working." -> Reported: He said she was working.
- **Past Simple** becomes **Past Perfect.**
  "The train arrived late." -> Reported: She said the train had arrived late.
- **Pronouns** and **time words** often change to match the new perspective.



Complete The Sentences

Change these direct quotes into reported speech:

1. **“The concert is amazing!”**
   She said the concert _____ amazing.
2. **“We are moving to Paris.”**
   They told us they _____ to Paris.
3. **“The boss forgot the documents.”**
   He said the boss _____ the documents.
4. **“The meeting starts at noon.”**
   The manager said the meeting _____ at noon.



The Office Rumor Mill

Read the scenario with us:

A huge rumor is spreading through the corporate office today. The CEO made a surprise announcement this morning, but everyone heard something different!

Some say the company is moving to Hawaii, others say everyone is getting a free car, car, and some heard the office is closing.

We need to trace the gossip back to the source and find out what was actually said!



Role-play: Tracing the Gossip

Let us practice speaking by acting out an office conversation.

One of you will be the Curious Coworker, and the other will be the Office Gossip. We will practice using reported speech to share what different people in the building are saying. Let us uncover the truth!



Role-play Part 1: The Hawaii Rumor

Curious Coworker: Did you hear what the marketing team said about the big announcement?

Office Gossip: Yes! Sarah said the company was moving our department to Hawaii.

Curious Coworker: Really? But Tom told everyone they were just planning a tropical holiday party.

Office Gossip: Well, the manager said we needed to pack our bags, so who knows!



Role-play Part 2: The Free Car Rumor

Curious Coworker: What about the rumor from the accounting team?

Office Gossip: David said the CEO had bought everyone a brand-new sports car!

Curious Coworker: That cannot be true. The receptionist said the company was cutting the budget.

Office Gossip: But David swore he had seen a delivery truck full of cars in the parking lot!



Role-play Part 3: The Real News

Curious Coworker: Let us just ask the CEO's assistant. What did she actually say?

Office Gossip: We just spoke to her. She said the company was buying a new coffee machine for the breakroom.

Curious Coworker: A coffee machine? How did that turn into a trip to Hawaii and free cars?

Office Gossip: She told us people had terrible listening skills. We should probably get back to work!



Review

Let us review what we learned today:

- We use **reported speech** to talk about what someone else said.
- We usually **shift tenses** one step into the **past** (e.g., Present becomes Past).
- **Pronouns** and **time words** change to match the new perspective.

Great job navigating the rumors and practicing reported speech with us today!



THANK YOU

You've completed the class!

See you next time.