

Reported Speech

**Language Focus**

- When we want to tell people what someone said, we can use reported speech (or indirect speech).

Direct speech	Sophie said, "Marco and Louise are getting married next week."
Reported speech	Sophie said (that) Marco and Louise were getting married the following week.

- When we use reported speech, we are usually talking about the past. So verbs usually change to the past in reported speech.

Direct Speech		Reported Speech
Simple Present	change to	Simple Past
Present Continuous		Past Continuous
Present Perfect		Past Perfect
Simple Past		Past Perfect
Simple Future		would

- If the reported statement is a fact or general truth, the present tense can be retained.  
e.g. "My fiancé is called Ted," Sophie said.  
→ Sophie tolde me that her fiancé is called Ted.
- Apart from the verbs, we also have to change to pronouns and the time adverbials accordingly.  
e.g. "I was also engaged last month," Sophie said.  
→ Sophie said (that) she had also been engaged the month before.

Direct Speech		Reported Speech
I / you / we	change to	he/she /they/them
now		then
yesterday		the day before
last week / month		the week / month before
next week / month		the following week / month

## A. Complete the reported statements.

1. "Marco opened his own company in 2005," Sophie said.

Sophie said that Marco \_\_\_\_\_ his own company in 2005.

2. "I'm having tea with an old friend now," Sophie told her fiancé on the phone.

Sophie told her fiancé that she \_\_\_\_\_ tea with an old friend \_\_\_\_\_.

3. "I will leave Hong Kong next year," Sophie said.

Sophie said that she \_\_\_\_\_ Hong Kong \_\_\_\_\_.

4. "Louise has lost 10 pounds!" Sophie said.

Sophie said that Louise \_\_\_\_\_ 10 pounds.

5. "Marco works very hard," Sophie said.

Sophie said Marco \_\_\_\_\_ very hard.

6. "I met Sister Maria on the street yesterday," Sophie said.

Sophie said she \_\_\_\_\_ Sister Maria on the street \_\_\_\_\_.

7. "We have known for 12 years!" Sophie said to Samantha.

Sophie told Samantha that \_\_\_\_\_ for 12 years.

B. Proofreading. There is ONE mistake in each reported statement. Correct the mistake.

e.g. "Louise will quit her job after marriage," Sophie said.

would

Sophie said Louise will quit her job after marriage.

1. "I am meeting Louise tomorrow," Sophie told me.

Sophie told me that she was meeting Louise tomorrow.

2. "Your hairstyle is great," Sophie said to me.

Sophie told me that her hairstyle was great.

3. "Marco doesn't know my fiancé," Sophie said.

Sophie said that Marco doesn't know her fiancé.

4. "Sister Maria retired last year," Sophie told me.

Sophie told me that Sister Maria retired the year before.

5. "I ran into Alan yesterday," Sophie said.

Sophie said she had run into Alan yesterday.

6. "Judy and I work in the same company," Samantha said.

Samantha said Judy and she work in the same company.

7. "Marco and Louise have bought an apartment," Sophie said.

Sophie said Marco and Louise have bought an apartment.

8. "It is raining now," Samantha said.

Samantha said it is raining then.

9. "I will introduce my fiancé to you," Sophie told Samantha.

Sophie told Samantha that she would introduced her fiancé to her.

