**Reported Speech**

Reported speech is used to convey what someone else has said without quoting their exact words. It involves reporting or paraphrasing what someone said, thought, or felt.

**Structure of Reported Speech:**

***Reporting Verb:***

Verbs such as "say," "tell," "ask," "mention," etc., are used to introduce reported speech.

**Example:** She said she was tired.

***Pronoun Changes:***

Pronouns may change according to the subject of the reporting clause.

**Example:** "He said, 'I am happy.'" → He said he was happy.

***Tense Changes:***

The tense of the reported speech often shifts back in time.

**Example:** "She said, 'I will come tomorrow.'" → She said she would come the next day.

***Time and Place Changes:***

Time and place expressions may change according to the context of the reporting clause.

**Example:** "She said, 'I am going to the party tonight.'" → She said she was going to the party that night.

***Reporting Verbs:***

There are various reporting verbs used to introduce reported speech, such as:

Say, tell, ask, explain, mention, reply, state, wonder, etc.

**Changes in Modal Verbs:**

Modal verbs may change according to the context and tense of the reporting clause.

***Example:*** "He said, 'I can swim.'" → He said he could swim.

**Backshifting:**

Backshifting refers to the shifting of tenses from direct speech to reported speech.

***Example:*** "She said, 'I am studying.'" → She said she was studying.

***Example Sentences:***

**Direct Speech:** "She said, 'I want to go home.'"

**Reported Speech:** She said she wanted to go home.

**Direct Speech:** "He said, 'I will call you later.'"

**Reported Speech:** He said he would call me later.

**Direct Speech:** "They said, 'We have finished the project.'"

**Reported Speech:** They said they had finished the project.

**Uses of Reported Speech:**

* To convey what someone else said, thought, or felt.
* To paraphrase or summarize someone else's words.