



Reported speech: statements

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In reported speech, the verb moves back a tense, e.g. present simple > past simple, present continuous > past continuous, etc.

'I like heavy metal music' He said that he **liked** heavy metal music.

'I'm studying French and Spanish.' She said that she **was studying** French and Spanish.

The past perfect tense and modal verbs *should*, *could*, *might* and *ought to* don't change in reported speech.

'You should ask him out.' She said that I **should** ask him out.

The two most common reporting verbs are *say* and *tell*.

We use *say* + *that* + clause.

He **said that** he was going out with Jane that night.

We use *tell* + object pronoun + *that* + clause.

He **told me that** he was going out with Jane that night.

1 Rewrite the sentences in reported speech.

1 'She goes out with her friends every night.'
Sue's father said that

2 'I bought the tickets yesterday.'
She said that

3 'They're going to Florida next week.'
Tim told me that

4 'He won't be in the office tomorrow.'
The secretary said that

5 'Jenny has passed her driving test.'
Jenny's brother told me that

6 'Carl might come to the football match this afternoon.'
He told me that

2 Read the interview. Then complete the summary.

Interviewer I hear you have a very unusual job.

Mr Fogarty That's right.

Interviewer So what do you do?

Mr Fogarty Well, I'm investigating the Loch Ness monster. Every day I go to Loch Ness and wait for the monster to appear.

Interviewer And have you ever seen the monster?

Mr Fogarty Yes, I have. It was very foggy and I tried to take a photograph, but unfortunately my camera didn't work.

Interviewer Do you think you'll see it again?

Mr Fogarty I might see it again if I'm lucky.

Interviewer And what do people think about your job?

Mr Fogarty Many people think it's a strange job to have. They don't believe in the Loch Ness monster, but I know it's out there somewhere.

The interviewer asked Mr Fogarty what he did. He explained that he **was investigating** the Loch Ness Monster. He said that every day he ¹ to Loch Ness and ² for the monster to appear. He claimed that he ³ the monster. He said that it ⁴ very foggy and he ⁵ to take a photograph, but unfortunately his camera ⁶ He said that he ⁷ it again if he ⁸ lucky. He admitted that many people ⁹ his job was strange. He said that they ¹⁰ in the Loch Ness monster, but he ¹¹ it was out there somewhere.

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ANSWER KEY

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- 11 Sue's father said that she went out with her friends every night.
- 2 She said that she had bought the tickets the day before.
- 3 Tim told me that they were going to Florida the following week.
- 4 The secretary said that he wouldn't be in the office the following day.
- 5 Jenny's brother told me that she had passed her driving test.
- 6 He told me that Carl might come to the football match that afternoon.

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|-----------------|-------------------|
| 21 went | 7 might see |
| 2 waited | 8 was |
| 3 had seen | 9 thought |
| 4 had been | 10 didn't believe |
| 5 had tried | 11 knew |
| 6 hadn't worked | |