

# REPORTED SPEECH

## (Advanced)

1

Change into reported speech and create a story:

A friend of yours at work sees you during the day and complains about her work. Report this to another friend a few days later. Begin your report as suggested at the end of the text. 'I'm fed up. We're stock-talking in our department and it's terrible. I've been working for six hours non-stop, and I can't do any more. It wouldn't seem so bad if it was raining - I hate having to work so hard when it's fine outside. It was just the same yesterday. I started at nine in the morning, and by five in the afternoon I was dropping on my feet. I asked my boss if I could leave at half-past five as I'd worked late the day before, but he said I had to get the work finished. I shall be thankful when it's all over.'

Mary stopped me at work the other day. She was really fed up...

2

You went to a party last week, where you were introduced to several people you had never met before. In conversation with a friend, you now talk about the party and report the various questions that different people ask you during the course of the evening.

1. 'Who did you come to the party with?'
2. 'Did you come with a friend?'
3. 'Why aren't you drinking?'
4. 'Would you like something to drink?'
5. 'Where do you live?'
6. 'Do you know many people here?'
7. 'When did you arrive?'
8. 'What do you do for a living?'
9. 'Did you see that marvellous documentary on TV last night?'
10. 'Have you been watching the latest TV serial?'
11. 'How do you like your coffee - black or white?'
12. 'What time is it?'
13. 'What's your phone number?'
14. 'Can I give you a ring tomorrow?'
15. 'How will you get back home?'

3

Give the actual comments made to researchers for the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?*

We collected opinions about sleeping quilts from some 1,200 members. Members owning quilts liked them chiefly for the ease of making the bed, for their warmth, and for their light weight. The two biggest grumbles were that sleeping quilts sometimes tended to slip off the bed, and were sometimes too warm or too cold.

Most members who hadn't got quilts said that they were happy with the blankets they already had, or liked to be tucked in firmly at night (not possible with quilts), or thought that quilts were too expensive.

4

Replace the word said in the sentences by one of the words at the head of the exercise.  
Use each word once only.

suggested	agreed	muttered	exclaimed
insisted	whispered	boasted	admitted
shouted	claimed	objected	protested

1. 'I can speak six languages fluently,' he said.
2. 'Let's go to the cinema this evening,' he said
3. 'Stop that noise in the classroom,' said the teacher.
4. 'That car you are driving is my property,' the man said.
5. 'Yes, I broke the windows with my catapult,' the boy said.
6. 'You can't take me to prison. I know my rights,' the man said.
7. 'I shall always love you,' said his fiancée.
8. 'We don't have enough money to carry out the plan,' said the treasurer.
9. 'This teacher doesn't know what his talking about,' said the student.
10. 'Well, it is a surprise to meet you here today!' she said.
11. 'Well, yes; if the weather is bad, we can't go,' he said
12. 'If you can't come today, you simply must come tomorrow,' she said.

5

Write a statement consistent with the verbs given.

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. ... he complained. | 7. ... he retorted. |
| 2. ... he sneered.    | 8. ... he declared. |
| 3. ... he stammered.  | 9. ... he promised. |
| 4. ... he snapped.    | 10. ... he groaned  |
| 5. ... he announced.  | 11. ... he conceded |
| 6. ... he explained.  | 12. ... he gasped.  |

6

When you have checked your answers to the last exercise, rewrite your sentences in reported speech. If necessary, use said with an appropriate adverb of manner in place of the original verb. If you wish, you can work from the answers suggested in the key.

7

Write a statement consistent with the adverb given.

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. ... he said angrily.      | 9. ... he commented derisively.    |
| 2. ... he said pompously.    | 10. ... he whispered shyly.        |
| 3. ... he said passionately. | 11. ... he observed sarcastically. |
| 4. ... he answered sharply.  | 12. ... he said sympathetically.   |
| 5. ... he said brutally.     | 13. ... he said patiently.         |
| 6. ... he said accusingly.   | 14. ... he said agreeably.         |
| 7. ... he said callously.    | 15. ... he said complacently.      |
| 8. ... he said defiantly.    | 16. ... he said fiercely.          |

8

Give what you think are the original words represented by the following reports.

1. He expressed his gratitude for what I'd done.
2. He complimented his wife on the meal she had prepared.
3. He expressed great satisfaction with the way things had turned out.
4. The doctor inquired after his patient's health.
5. I expressed surprise at meeting him here that day.
6. The hotel porter offered to carry my cases.
7. I advised him to think carefully before making up his mind.
8. We were warned not to touch the fence. It was electrified.
9. One of the group suggested we all go and have a drink.
10. The teacher reprimanded the student for failing to do his homework.
11. The motorist remonstrated with the traffic warden at being given a parking ticket.
12. He expressed his disappointment at my failure in the test.
13. We were given a warm welcome by our host and hostess.
14. He offered me a lift in his car.
15. I politely declined his invitation.