

# UNIT 7

## REPORTED SPEECH

1. **Read the conversation between a young boy and his mother. The boy is determined to go to camp, despite his mother's refusal to let him (from George Layfon's short story "The Holiday").**

It wasn't fair. Tony and Barry were going. In fact, nearly all of them in Class Three and Four were going, except me. It wasn't fair. Why wouldn't my mum let me go?

- (a) "I've told you. You are not going camping. You're far too young."

Huh! She said that last year.

"You said that last year."

"You can go next year when you're a bit older."

She said that last year, too.

"You said that last year and all."

"Do you want a clout?"

"Well you did, Mum, didn't you?"

- (b) "Go and wash your hands for tea."

- (c) "Aw, Mum, everybody else is going to school camp. Why can't I?"

- (d) "Because you're going to Bridlington with me and your aunt Doreen, like you do every year!"

Oh! Every year my mum, me and Aunt Doreen stay at Mrs. Sharkey's boarding house. I suppose we'll have that same room again.

"Don't be cheeky! Mrs. Sharkey saves the room for me every year. It's the best room in the house facing the sea."

"Aw, Mum, I never get any sleep - the sea splashing on one side."

My mum gave me a clout right across my head.

"Well, you've done it now. You've dislocated my jaw - ow!"

She clouted me again, right in the same place.

"It's not fair. Tony's mum and dad are letting him go to school camp, and Barry's going too. Why don't you let me go?"

She suddenly bent down and put her face right next to mine, right close. She made me jump.

- (e) "Now listen to me, my lad. What Tony's mum and dad do, and what Barry's mum and dad do, is their look out. You will come with me and your Auntie Doreen to Bridlington and enjoy yourself, like you do every year!"

**1.1 Suppose Tony overheard this conversation, and wrote a letter to Barry. Write and complete Tony's letter for him.**

Dear Barry,

*It's just two weeks more for our school camp! I can't wait to have a great time with our class mates. I was hoping you, George and I get to share a tent together! But I was at George's place and got to hear what his mother felt about our trip.*

*To start with his mother said he wasn't going camping, adding that he was far too young for it. George reminded his Mum that she had said that the previous year.*

*She felt that (a) \_\_\_\_\_ older. He protested that she had said the previous year, too. To this, she simply ordered (b) \_\_\_\_\_ for tea.*

*He wanted to know why (c) \_\_\_\_\_*

*when every body else, was going. She reasoned with him saying (d)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*George objected to being disturbed by the splashing sea, waves. But, his mother clouted him twice and in a threatening manner, told him (e)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ so, that's it. Probably, George won't be with us

Affectionately

Tony.



## 2. Reporting Verbs

### Did you know?

Sometimes it is not necessary to report everything that is said word for word. It may be better to use "reporting verbs" which summarise what was communicated. Below are some of the most commonly used verbs of this kind.

accept	advise	apologise	ask	assure	blame
complain	compliment	congratulate	explain	greet	hope
introduce	invite	offer	order	persuade	promise
refuse	regret	remind	say	suggest	tell
sympathise	thank	threaten	answer	warn	encourage

A

B

C

Can you hear me?  
(speaker)

What did she say?  
(you)

She asked if you  
could hear her.  
(friend)  
(ask)

You should go  
to the doctor  
now.  
(speaker)

What did he say?  
(you)

He advised you  
to go to the doctor  
now.  
(friend)  
(advise)

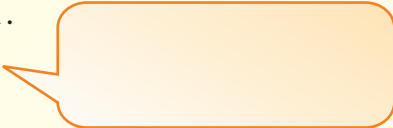

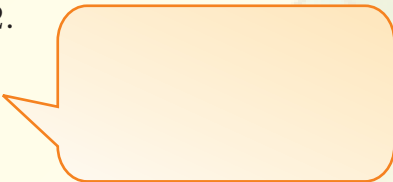



**3. Fill in the empty bubbles in Column C with reports of what was said in Column A, as in the box given on page 87.**

A (First speaker)	B (Questioner)	C ("Reporter")
1. 		 (order)
2. 		 (regret)
3. 		 (warn)
4. 		 (refuse)
5. 		 (persuade)



#### 4. Interactive Practice

Individually, write down four sentences as in column A in 3.

	A (First speaker)	B (Questioner)	C ("Reporter")
1.		<i>What did he say?</i>	
2.		<i>What did she say?</i>	
3.		<i>What did the notice say?</i>	

#### 5. Allen of MES Indian school has been asked to interview the Minister for Environment and Forests about the world's first zero - carbon city. Here is an extract of the taped interview. Write a short report in the given space.

Allen : It's remarkable! A city of fifty thousand people and no cars!

Minister: I agree with you. Masdar city in Abu Dhabi will be the world's first zero-carbon city.

Allen : How will you achieve this?

Minister: Our city will soon run entirely on renewable energy, including solar panels to trap the abundant resources offered by the desert sun.

Allen : So, you will be a shining model for other Governments. Congratulations, Sir.

- Minister: Thank you. We are investing in our future. You may wonder how people would go about the city, don't you?
- Allen : I have wondered about it, Sir.
- Minister: Our futuristic city will have people moving about in automated pods.
- Allen : It's unbelievable. Forgive me if I find it so fantastic.
- Minister: Our Government assures you that this unique city will be ready for people to settle in by 2015. It will have a light railway line, transport pods and no carbon footprints.
- Allen : We need air conditioners, don't we? It's impossible to live without them here.
- Minister: Masdar city will take full advantage of the sea breezes. The city will have a perimeter wall that will protect it from the hot air.
- Allen : I wish other countries could plan their expansion in this way.
- Minister: In addition to what I have mentioned earlier, the city will be protected from the noise of the nearby Abu Dhabi Airport.

### UAE PLANS FUTURISTIC CITY

by Allen Kuwana

*The Zero-Carbon City Project, initiated by the government of the United Arab Emirates is a milestone in mankind's efforts to save its planet from the ravages of climate change. The Minister for Environment and Forests, Abu Dhabi, assures our readers that* \_\_\_\_\_

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## 6. Reporting 'Questions' and 'Requests'

The words in these sentences have been mixed up. Put them in the correct order. Direct questions (?) are followed by reported questions (•). Study the examples first.

YOUR SEAT COMFORTABLE IS (?)

Is your seat comfortable?

SEAT HE IF ASKED YOUR COMFORTABLE WAS (•)

He asked if your seat was comfortable.

FEELING ARE YOU BETTER (?)

SHE IF FEELING BETTER WERE ASKED YOU (•)

DID KALIAS LIVE WHERE THE (?)

ASKED HE THE KALIAS WHERE LIVED (•)

THEY WILL BE LEAVING WHEN (?)

ASKED BE HE WHEN THEY LEAVING WOULD (•)

CAN OPEN THE PLEASE YOU WINDOW (?)

YOU OPEN ASKED WINDOW COULD SHE WHETHER THE (•)

MODEL HOW HAVE FINISHED THAT QUICKLY SO YOU (?)

THAT MODEL QUICKLY SO HOW HAD FINISHED THEY ASKED YOU (•)

**7. Report the following questions. (Use if/whether or why, as appropriate.)**

1. Have you met my sister?  
She asked \_\_\_\_\_ (use you and her)
2. Do you want a drink?  
He asked \_\_\_\_\_ (use you)
3. Why didn't you study for the Unit test?  
She asked \_\_\_\_\_ (use he)
4. Can you help me with my homework this evening?  
He asked \_\_\_\_\_ (use she)
5. Have you had lunch yet?  
They asked \_\_\_\_\_ (use he)

**8. Said and told**

Be careful with the use of **said** and **told**. Look at these examples.

He told me to stop work.

They told us they had four children.

She said (that) they were finished.

We said (that) we were leaving at 6 o'clock.





**What would you use when ordering somebody to do something: told or said?**

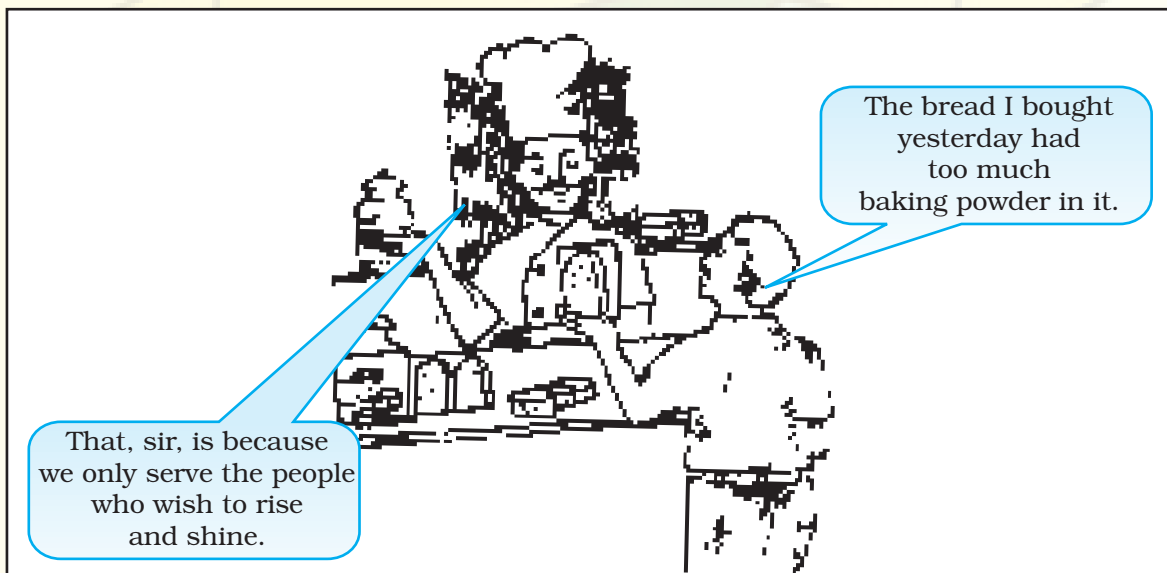
**Fill in the blanks using *said* or *told*.**

**Add any other words that you think are necessary.**

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ to sit down and I did.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ the weather would be hot and it was.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ about the disaster and we listened carefully.
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ to go away and they did.
5. She \_\_\_\_\_ there was no other way to do it.

**9. Thinking about changes in Reported Speech**

**Look at the cartoon and read the dialogue.**



**Now read the following paragraph, which reports what happened in the cartoon.**

A customer walked into a bakery and complained that the bread he had bought the previous day had too much baking powder in it. The man at the counter told him that that was because they only served those people who wished to rise and shine.

Note the choice of tense in reported speech.

bought (simple past) → had bought (past perfect)

**In the box below list the words that have been changed**

Direct		Indirect
I	→	he
	→	had bought
	→	
	→	
	→	

List the two verbs of speaking that have been added.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ that .....
2. \_\_\_\_\_ that .....

### 10. Reported Speech in Extended Practice.

**Read the dialogue between Mr Coomer (Mr C), the British Scholarship Officer, and an applicant, Miss Reena Banerjee (R).**

Mr C: Come in, Miss Banerjee.

R: Thank you.

Mr C: Please sit down. Can I get you a cup of coffee or a cold drink?

R: Yes thank you. A cold drink, please.

Mr C: I'm just going to ask you a few questions. How long have you been studying English?

R: I've had private as well as school lessons for 14 years.

Mr C: Just as background information, what do you do in your spare time?

R: I've always enjoyed drama, and also debating.



- Mr C: Why do you wish to obtain a scholarship to study in Britain?
- R: Well, I'm interested in studying Immigration Law, and there are several good colleges in Britain dealing with his.
- Mr C: Very interesting. Finally, do you know that the grant only covers teaching fees?
- What about your living expenses?
- R: My sister will pay for my personal expenses.
- Mr C: Well, Miss Banerjee, we'll be writing to you next week. Thank you for coming.

**Reena meets her friend, Latha, after the interview. She is very excited and tells Latha exactly what happened. Fill in the spaces using reported speech. Fill in the boxes with reporting verbs.**

- Reena: I think it went quite well. The interviewer was very pleasant.
- Latha: What did he ask you?
- Reena: Well, first of all he  me a drink. Of course I  because my throat was dry! Then he  me \_\_\_\_\_ just \_\_\_\_\_ a few questions. He \_\_\_\_\_ English.
- Latha: What did you reply?
- Reena: I  \_\_\_\_\_ 14 years - which is more or less true.
- Next, he  \_\_\_\_\_ and I  that \_\_\_\_\_
- Latha: Did he ask why you had applied?

Reena: I'm just getting to that! Yes, he did. I  \_\_\_\_\_

Immigration Law because there were lots of excellent colleges in Britain teaching this.

Latah: Very good answer.

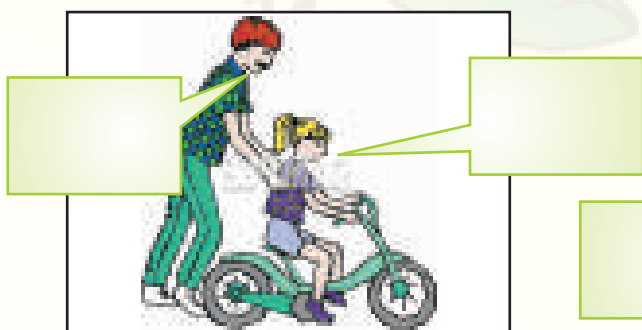
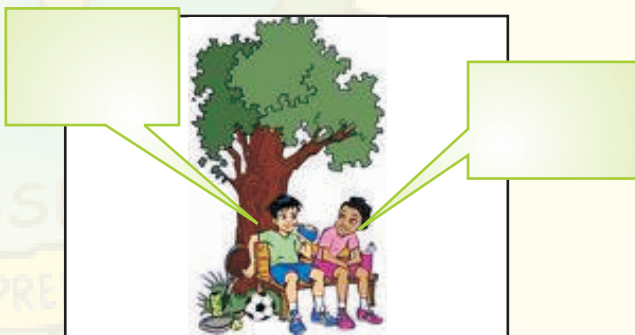
Reena: Yes, he \_\_\_\_\_! Finally, he  me that \_\_\_\_\_ and  me \_\_\_\_\_  
I  him that my sister \_\_\_\_\_.

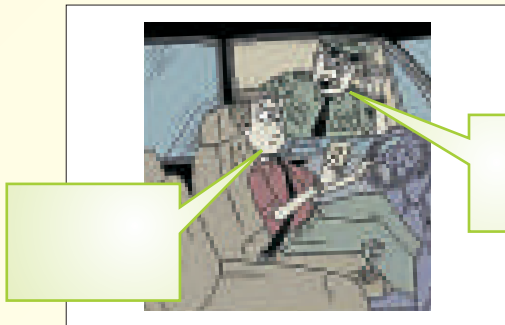
Latha: What happens now?

Reena: He said \_\_\_\_\_

Latha: I do hope you get it!

**11. Look at the pictures of people talking to each other. With your partners, discuss what they are telling each other. Share your ideas with the class.**





## 12. Read the following dialogue

Raghu: I think one of my snakes has escaped.

Sheela: Isn't it dangerous? You really must stop collecting snakes, Raghu.

Raghu: But I like snakes - they are unusual pets.

Sheela: But I think it's a dangerous thing to keep such pets.

Raghu: No, they're not dangerous; they are really....er....quite friendly.

Sheela: Huh, snakes require a great deal of careful handling and are still a risk.

Raghu: I don't mind. What matters is that I like them.

Sheela: Well, quite frankly, I hate them. They are awfully frightening to look at.

Raghu: Look, I am very careful and I handle them very gently. In fact, I don't have many.

Sheela: Have you ever been bitten?

Raghu: Well, it's true I've been bitten once or twice, but...

**You are a friend who has overheard this conversation between Raghu and Sheela. Write to your sister reporting it. Give the conversation an interesting, unexpected or humorous ending. (The first part has been done for you.)**

Janpath

5 January

Dear Varsha

*As you're very interested in Raghu and his snakes, I thought I'd tell you about a conversation I heard between him and Sheela.*

*He told her he thought one of this snakes had escaped and, as usual, she told him to stop collecting them because they were dangerous. (Typical of Sheela, don't you think?)*

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**Remember these rules of change**

Pronouns			
Direct speech	Indirect speech		
	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
I	he	she	they
you	he	she	they
you	him	her	them
your	his	her	their
me	him	her	them
my	his	her	their
myself	himself	herself	themselves
we			they
us			them, their





### WORDS DENOTING TIME AND POSITION

When the reporting verb is in the past tense, certain words denoting nearness of time and place are changed into words denoting distance.

It is treated necessary to change the words denoting nearness to words denoting distance because, when we report the words of a person to somebody, the place and time of the reporting is changed.

So the reported speech must be in line with the modified time and place.

#### Direct Speech

#### Indirect Speech

this	that
these	those
now	then
ago	before
last night	the previous night
	the night before
next day	the following day
	the day after
today	the day
tonight	that night
yesterday	the previous day
	the day before
tomorrow	the next day
	the following day
	the day after
day before yesterday	the day before the previous day
	or two days before
day after tomorrow	the day after the next day
	or in two days
week	the following week
now	then
here	there

## INTEGRATIVE GRAMMAR PRACTICE 6

1. Read the following sentences. Each sentence has four words underlined. Select one underlined word that is incorrect and write it in the space provided. The first one has been done as an example.

The Statue of Liberty is designed by Frederic Auguste Barthold. is

It was completely in France in July 1884.

The statue was shipped to New York with 350 pieces.

She arrived there on 17 June 1885.

The pieces were put together but the opening ceremony took place on 28 Oct 1886.

2. Choose the right word from the options given below and fill in the blank.

(a) He \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast yesterday.

(b) There \_\_\_\_\_ orange juice in the refrigerator.

(c) My room can't be dirty, I \_\_\_\_\_ it.

(d) Sneha wrote the programme \_\_\_\_\_; she didn't need anybody's help.

(e) If you had come to the theatre last night you \_\_\_\_\_ the play.

- (a) (i) not had      (ii) didn't had      (iii) didn't have      (iv) hadn't  
 (b) (i) aren't any      (ii) is no any      (iii) wasn't none      (iv) isn't any  
 (c) (i) just clean      (ii) is just cleaned      (iii) has just clean      (iv) have just cleaned  
 (d) (i) on her own      (ii) on herself      (iii) by himself      (iv) by her own.  
 (e) (i) would enjoy      (ii) had enjoyed      (iii) would have enjoyed      (iv) must have enjoyed

3. Rearrange the jumbled words to form meaningful sentences. Rewrite the sentences using appropriate punctuation marks.

(a) in 2004 / the Nobel Peace prize / Dr. Wangari Maathai / was awarded

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) towards sustainable development / the award / was in / her service / recognition of

(b) \_\_\_\_\_



- (c) Nairobi's Uhuni Park / in 1989 / saved / single - handedly / she
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) which is an NGO / she is / the Green Belt Movement / the founder of
- (d) \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) at the grassroots / environmental issues / the Green Belt Movement / works / on various/level
- (e) \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) has earned / Dr. Wangari Maathai / "Tree Mother of Africa" / the title
- (f) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Look at the notes given below and complete the paragraph that follows by choosing the correct option from the choices given.**

Kamala Das alias Kamala Suraiyya - famous Indian writer - published auto biography - My story - translated - foreign languages.

Kamala Das also (a) \_\_\_\_\_ is (b) \_\_\_\_\_.  
She (c) \_\_\_\_\_ 'My Story' when she was 42 years old.  
Her autobiography (d) \_\_\_\_\_ into many foreign languages.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (a) (i) called as Kamala Suraiyya          | (ii) known by Kamala Suraiyya          |
| (iii) known as Kamala Suraiyya             | (iv) said as Kamala Suraiyya           |
| (b) (i) famous Indian writer               | (ii) a famous Indian writer            |
| (iii) the famous Indian writer             | (iv) famous as an Indian writer        |
| (c) (i) published her autobiography titled | (ii) published an autobiography titled |
| (iii) published an autobiography as        | (iv) published an autobiography as     |
| (d) (i) is being translated                | (ii) will be translated                |
| (iii) have been translated                 | (iv) has been translated               |