

I'm not a robot



sergeant-like voice. For example: Put down your pen! Listen to me! Pick up your bag! Answer your mobile phone! The students must carry out the orders. Once you've given orders to four students, ask a fifth: what did I just say? The fifth student must report the orders (e.g. you told Maria to put down her pen, you told Giovanni to listen to you, ... if they can do it correctly, they become the drill sergeant. Note This is a drill but with a role play element (that of being the sergeant) to make the role even more effective you could use a prop, like a ruler or some kind of stick to wave around. You then give the prop to the next drill sergeant. Make sure nobody gets hit with the prop though! Activity: things I was asked/told to do To provide more practice in reporting structures with ask/tell, ask students to make a list of things they were asked or told to do in different situations. For example: when they were a child when they first started learning English in their first job on their first day at school/university Tell students to compare with each other once they have written their lists. Then ask different students to report back. Activity: Survivors mingle This is a group role play, where students imagine that they have survived a plane accident and are stranded on a desert island. Prepare a series of cards/slips of paper, each with a different suggestion for the situation. Here are some

[illegible]

examples: We should just wait for someone to come and find us. Why don't we explore the island? Lets get wood for a fire. We should all stay together. We should defend ourselves from dangerous animals around here. I think you should try to escape together. Lets build a boat. We should try and fix the plane. (you can make your own. Begin with one who Lets . We should)Create enough cards so that each student has one. You can repeat the same sentences on other cards. Explain that you want the students to role play the situation described above (to make it more 'real' you could elaborate on the story of how they got there). Everybody must circulate and talk to each other. They must say what is on their card and as little else as possible. After five minutes (or however long it takes for most students to have spoken to each other) tell everyone to sit down again. Ask people to report back on what other people told them, using one of the following reporting verbs: suggest, advise or recommend. Variation Here is a variation which lets the students choose more of the language. Set up the scene, then give the students the sentence stems: Why dont we Lets . We should and ask them to write a suggestion. Give them one of the above as an example. Then continue the activity. Activity: Election pledges To practise the structures following verbs like promise and offer, you can ask students to imagine they are speechwriters for a candidate for President or Prime Minister of their country. They must prepare a very short speech. You could give them the following outline to help: I know that So I promise to and to If we are elected, my government pledges* to My opponent has promised to But we all know that Together we can * pre-teach pledge it has the same reporting structure as promise, or offer Students can write this in groups. Then have different students read out their election speeches. Who is the most convincing? By The Resourceful English Teacher / 29/10/2023 Post navigation If youre looking for a reported speech speaking activity, look no further than tell your story. Its a fun reported speech activity to try out with your higher-level ESL or EFL students. Keep on reading for all the details you need to know about teaching indirect speech!Speaking Activity to Practice Reported SpeechYou can often find a unit on reported speech in most intermediate-level English textbooks. But, its not that easy to design some ESL activities to practice this. Not to worry. Keep on reading for one of the best reported speech activities to try out with your students.Check out one of my favourites: Tell a Story. Its fun, and engaging, and creates some great opportunities for students to practice this important skill. Reported speech activities dont have to be terrible any longer! Have some fun with reported speech ESL.Reported Speech ESL Speaking ActivitySkills: Writing/reading/speaking/listeningTime: 15-30 minutesLevel: Intermediate to AdvancedMaterials Required: NothingHave students write something interesting. Some examples are the most embarrassing moment, the scariest thing youve ever done, your dream for the future, future predictions, etc. Base it on whatever topic you are studying in class that day. Make it clear to the students that it should be something theyre willing to share with the entire class so as not to write something very private.Then, distribute the stories to other people in the class. Then the students have to go around the class, finding the person whose story they have by asking questions. Once they find that person, they have to ask them three interesting questions about the story. And the person who originally wrote the story has to answer them of course.I like this part of it because it gets students up and out of their seats, moving around and talking to different people. It gets boring sitting down all the time and talking to only 1 person! Its ideal for those sleepy classes that you might have on Friday afternoon or those ones who are just waking up on Monday morning.Reported speech ESL activitiesTeaching Tips for Tell Your Story:Emphasize to students that they are to practice asking good questions. For example, USA? is not a good question, while, Did you study abroad in the USA? is much better. Full sentences are the key here.Also, emphasize that students should think of interesting follow-up questions that expand upon their knowledge about that situation. This involves reading carefully so they can avoid asking about things that are already mentioned.You can give your students a couple of minutes before the activity starts to write down a few questions based on the paper they received to help facilitate this. Based on the topic youve assigned for the story, there should be some obvious ones that theyd want to ask.This activity provides an excellent opportunity for your students to work on reported speech. This is something that high-level students are often surprisingly weak at. If you have a small class (less than 10), students can report what they learned about their partner to everyone.If larger, students can tell their seating partner what they learned. For example, students might say something like, I talked to Min-Ji. She told me that she got in a car accident last year. She said that it was really scary, but thankfully nobody got injured seriously.Procedure for this Reported Speech Activity:Have students write an interesting story based on a certain topic. Adjust for length and difficulty depending on your students.Collect stories and redistribute themone per student, making sure a student does not get their own story.Students go around the class asking people if that is their story. For example, Did you get in a car accident when you were little?When they find the person, they must ask them three interesting follow-up questions about it.Do the optional variation of having students tell other people what they learned about their classmate in order to practice using reported speech.Follow-up with a worksheet, other activity or homework assignment.Do You Like this Reported Speech ESL Speaking Activity? If you like this ESL speaking activity to help your students practice reported speech, then youre going to love this book: 101 ESL Activities: For Teenagers and Adults. Its lesson planning made easy, guaranteed. The key to better English classes is a wide variety of engaging and interactive games and activities and this book will help you get there in style.There are dozens of top-quality ESL games and activities for teenagers and adults that are organized into various categories: reading, writing, speaking, writing, warm-ups, and 4-skills. Youre sure to find something that will work for any level of students or topic.You can get the book on Amazon in both print and digital formats. The (cheaper!) digital copy can be read on any device by downloading the free Kindle reading app. Its super easy to have fun, engaging ESL activities with you anywhere you go.Or, buy the book and keep it as a handy reference on your bookshelf, or teacher supply room. You can check out 101 ESL Activities for yourself over on Amazon:Teaching Reported Speech FAQsThere are a number of common questions that people have about reported speech games and activities for English learners. Here are the answers to some of the most popular ones.What is reported speech in English?Reported speech is when we talk about or repeat what someone else has said using our own words.Why do we use reported speech?We use reported speech to share information, statements, or questions that someone else has said.What changes occur when turning direct speech into indirect speech?Pronouns, tense, and time expressions often change for indirect speech.Can you give an example of direct speech changing to reported speech?Direct: She said, I am going to the store. Reported: She said that she was going to the store.What happens to the pronouns in reported speech?Pronouns usually change to match the perspective of the speaker in reported speech.How do you shift tenses in reported speech?Generally, you shift the tense back one step. For example, present simple becomes past simple.Do all time expressions remain the same in indirect speech?No, time expressions usually change, e.g., now becomes then, today becomes that day.Whats the reporting verb?The verb that introduces indirect speech can be things like, said, told, asked.Can questions be reported too?Yes, questions can be reported using reporting verbs like asked or wondered.How do you report imperative sentences?Imperative sentences are reported using the verb to + infinitive, or with phrases like ordered or told.Whats the key to successfully teaching indirect speech to ESL students?Practice and exposure through various exercises and real-life examples are crucial for understanding indirect speech.Reported speech games and activities for ESLLet your Story English Speaking Activity: Have your Say!What do you think of this activity to practice ESL reported speech? Is it a good one or do you have another reported speech lesson plan activity that youd like to recommend? Leave a comment below and let us know your thoughts. Wed love to hear from you.Also be sure to give this article a share on Facebook, Pinterest, or Twitter. Ill help other busy teachers, like yourself find this useful resource.Last update on 2025-06-17 / Affiliate links / Images from Amazon Product Advertising APIJackie Bolen has been teaching English for more than 20 years to students in South Korea and Canada. She's taught all ages, levels and kinds of TEFL classes. She holds an MA degree, along with the Celta and Delta English teaching certifications. Jackie is the author of more than 100 books for English teachers and English learners, including 101 ESL Activities for Teenagers and Adults, Great Debates for ESL/EFL, and 1001 English Expressions and Phrases. She loves to share her ESL games, activities, teaching tips, and more with other teachers throughout the world.You can find her on social media at:YouTubeFacebookPinterestInstagram Getting your Trinity Audio player ready... Heres a detailed lesson plan for teaching reported speech, designed to help students understand its use, structure, and practical application in conversations and writing. By the end of the lesson, students will be able to: Identify and understand the difference between direct and reported speech. Transform sentences from direct to reported speech accurately. Use reported speech in various contexts, such as conversations, storytelling, or formal writing.Activity: Who Said It?Write famous quotes on the board (e.g., I have a dream, Martin Luther King Jr.). Ask students to report them. Example:Martin Luther King Jr. said that he had a dream. Discuss the difference between quoting directly and reporting what someone said.Direct Speech: Quoting someones exact words.Example: He said, I am tired. Reported Speech: Paraphrasing what someone said.Example: He said that he was tired.Pronouns: Adjust based on the speaker and listener.I am happy. She said that she was happy. Verb Tense Shift (Backshifting):Present Past: I like apples. He said that he liked apples. Past Past Perfect: I went there. She said that she had gone there. Future Conditional: I will call you. He said that he would call me. Time Expressions:Now Then, Today That day, Tomorrow The next day. Questions in Reported Speech:Yes/No Questions: Do you like pizza? He asked if I liked pizza. Wh- Questions: Where are you going? She asked where I was going. Commands and Requests:Close the door. She told me to close the door.No backshifting if the reporting verb is in the present tense:He says, I like tea. He says that he likes tea. No change in universal truths:The Earth is round. He said that the Earth is round.Sentence Transformation:Provide direct speech sentences. Students convert them into reported speech. Example:I am reading a book. She said that she was reading a book. Where is the library? He asked where the library was. Error Correction:Display incorrect sentences. Students identify and correct the errors.Incorrect: She said that she will come tomorrow. Correct: She said that she would come the next day. Fill in the Blanks:Direct: I can swim. Reported: She said that she _____ swim. (could)Role-Playing:Divide students into pairs. One student acts as a journalist, asking questions. The other reports the answers.Example: Journalist: What is your favorite hobby?Report: She said that her favorite hobby was painting. Story Retelling:Read a short dialogue or story aloud. Students retell it using reported speech. Example:Dialogue-John: Im going to the market. Mary: Can you get me some oranges? Report: John said that he was going to the market. Mary asked if he could get her some oranges. Class Survey:Students ask their classmates a question (e.g., What is your favorite food?) and report their answers to the class.Example: Anna said that her favorite food was pizza.Quick Quiz:Ask 3-5 direct speech sentences for students to convert on the spot. Homework:Write a short report about what 3 family members or friends said during a conversation. Example:My brother said that he had finished his homework. My mom asked if I could help her with cooking.Visual Aids: Use a chart to show tense shifts and common time expression changes. Games: Play a Reported Speech Relay, where students pass sentences in reported form. Technology: Use apps or websites like Kahoot! for quizzes on reported speech. 1. What is reported speech?A) Quoting someones exact wordsB) Paraphrasing what someone saidC) Writing a storyD) None of the above

How to teach reported speech. How to teach reported speech in a fun way. How to teach reported speech easily. How to teach reported speech in english.