Grammar Challenge

Reported speech

Practice activities



BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH

BBC WORLD SERVICE
bbclearningenglish.com

© British Broadcasting Corporation 2007

Reported speech

Exercise 1:

Someone says something to you that's the opposite of what they told you earlier. Match the beginnings of these conversations with the correct endings.

1.	I'm going to Japan on holiday.
2.	He's a lawyer.
3.	She's had a baby girl.
4.	I haven't seen Bob for ages.
5.	I love these new boots.
6.	I only cheated in one exam.
7.	She doesn't speak French or Italian..
8.	He works in London.

a.	You said she'd had a boy.
b.	You admitted you cheated in all your exams.
c.	You told me he was a teacher.
d.	You told me she was fluent in both.
e.	You said you hated them.
f.	You said you were going on business.
g.	You told me his office was in Rome.
h.	You told me you'd seen him last week.

© BBC Learning English

Reported speech

Exercise 2:

These are the exact words Frank said to you yesterday.

"I've just got engaged! We're getting married next year. We're going to Paris for our honeymoon. It's all going to be very expensive. Luckily, my friend is a photographer so he he'll take the photos for us. We'll be having the reception in my parents' back garden. My mum is baking the cake for us and my sister's band is playing free for us. I hope you'll come to the wedding."

Now you're telling your friend what Frank told you. Chose the correct option.

He said he **(1)**_____ just got engaged. He told me that he **(2)** _____ next year. He told me **(3)** _____ to Paris for their honeymoon. He mentioned that it **(4)** _____ very expensive. He said that his friend **(5)** _____ and he **(6)** _____ the photos for them. He mentioned that they **(7)** _____ the reception in his parents' garden. He admitted that **(8)** _____. He said his sister's band **(9)** _____. He said he **(10)** _____ I'd come to the wedding.

Options

(1) have / had

(2) was getting / getting

(3) they were going / they going

(4) was all to being / was all going to be

(5) will be a photographer / was a photographer

(6) would take / will take

(7) be having / would be having

(8) his mum was baking a cake for them / my mum is baking a cake for us

(9) was playing free for them./ is playing free for us

(10) hope / hoped

© BBC Learning English

Reported speech

Exercise 1: ANSWERS

Someone says something to you that the opposite of what they told you earlier. Match the beginnings of these conversations with the correct endings.

1.	I'm going to Japan on holiday.	f.	You said you were going on business.
2.	He's a lawyer.	c.	You told me he was a teacher.
3.	She's had a baby girl.	a	You said she'd had a boy.
4.	I haven't seen Bob for ages.	h.	You told me you'd seen him last week.
5.	I love these new boots.	e.	You said you hated them.
6.	I only cheated in one exam.	b.	You admitted you cheated in all your exams.
7.	She doesn't speak French or Italian..	d.	You told me she was fluent in both.
8.	He works in London.	g.	You told me his office was in Rome.

© BBC Learning English

Reported speech

Exercise 2: ANSWERS

These are the exact words Frank said to you yesterday.

"I've just got engaged! We're getting married next year. We're going to Paris for our honeymoon. It's all going to be very expensive. Luckily, my friend is a photographer so he he'll take the photos for us. We'll be having the reception in my parents' back garden.. My mum is baking the cake for us and my sister's band is playing free for us. I hope you'll come to the wedding."

Now you're telling your friend what Frank told you. Chose the correct option.

He said he **(1)**_____ just got engaged. He told me that he **(2)** _____ next year. He told me **(3)** _____ to Paris for their honeymoon. He mentioned that it **(4)** _____ very expensive. He said that his friend **(5)** _____ and he **(6)** _____ the photos for them. He mentioned that they **(7)** _____ the reception in his parents' garden. He admitted that **(8)** _____. He said his sister's band **(9)** _____. He said he **(10)** _____ I'd come to the wedding.

ANSWERS

(1) had
(2) was getting
(3) they were going
(4) was all going to be
(5) was a photographer
(6) would take
(7) would be having
(8) his mum was baking a cake for them
(9) was playing free for them
(10) hoped

© BBC Learning English