

Grammar

Module 5: Globetrotting

Suffixes such as ‘-er’, ‘-or’ or ‘-ist’ are added to verbs or other words to make nouns. It’s usually added to verbs to give them different meaning.

The **-er** ending can also be used to form nouns meaning

- a person or thing that has a particular quality or form.

→ *double-decker, two-wheeler, skyscraper*

- a person belonging to a particular place or group.

→ *foreigner, prisoner, smallholder*

- a person concerned with a particular thing.

→ *writer, lawyer, treasurer, mariner*

The ending **-or** is added to verbs to make nouns meaning ‘a person or thing that does something’.

Persons	Things
director	calculator
actor	escalator

The suffix ‘**-ist**’ is added to verbs or other words to denote a person who practices or is concerned with something, or holds certain principles, doctrines, etc.

Examples:

- apologist
- dramatist

- novelist
- socialist

Reported Speech

Also known as indirect speech, it is a means of expressing the content of statements, questions or other utterances, without quoting them explicitly as is done in direct speech.

Direct speech is when we tell someone what another person said. To do this, we can use direct speech or indirect speech. For example:

Direct speech: *“I work in a bank,” said Daud.*

Indirect speech: *Daud said that he worked in a bank.*

In indirect speech, we often use past tense (e.g. *worked*) than present tense (e.g. *work*). It is called 'backshift'. We also need to change pronouns.

Examples of the main changes in tense in reported speech:

→ He said that he **had visited** Lisbon the previous year. (Indirect speech)

→ He said, “I **have visited** Lisbon the previous year. (Direct speech)

Modals

In reported speech, the modal verbs ‘could’, ‘should’, ‘would’, ‘might’, ‘needn't’, ‘ought to’, ‘used to’ do not normally change.

Examples:

He said, “She might be right.” – He said that she might be right.

Other modal verbs that may change:

today → that day

now → then

here → there

this → that

Modal	Directed Speech	Reported/Indirect speech
can	“I can finish the job.”	He said he could finish the job.
may	“ May I go to the toilet?”	He wanted to know if he might go to the toilet.
must	“She must apply for the job.”	He said that she must/had to apply for the job.
will	“They will call you soon.”	He told her that they would call her soon.

Place, demonstratives and time expressions

Place, demonstratives and time expressions change if the context of the reported statement (i.e., the location and/or the period of time) is different from that of the direct speech.

Reporting Questions

When transforming questions, check whether you have to change:

- pronouns
- place and time expressions
- tenses (backshift)

Also note that you have to:

- transform the question into an indirect question
- use the question word (*where, when, what, how*) or *if/whether*

Examples:

“Why don’t you speak English?”

→ He asked me why I didn’t speak English.

“Do you speak English?”

→ He asked me **whether/if** I spoke English.

The Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Known as the past perfect progressive tense, it shows an action that started in the past continued up until another time in the past. It is constructed using had been + the verb's present participle.

Usage of reporting verbs

Reporting verbs are used to report what someone said more accurately than using say and tell.

<p>1. verb + infinitive <i>agree, decide, offer, promise, refuse</i> → They agreed to meet on Sunday. → She refused to take her coat off.</p>	<p>4. verb + object + preposition <i>accuse, blame, congratulate</i> → He accused me of taking his money. → They blamed me for the loss.</p>
<p>2. verb + object + infinitive <i>advise, encourage, invite, remind, warn</i> → She advised them to go home early. → He reminded me to invite my mother.</p>	<p>5. verb + preposition + gerund <i>apologise, insist</i> → He apologised for not coming. → She insisted on having dinner.</p>
<p>3. verb + gerund <i>deny, recommend, suggest</i> → He recommended taking the train. → She suggested meeting a little earlier.</p>	<p>6. verb + subject + verb <i>admit, agree, decide, deny, explain, insist</i> → Ana decided the house needed cleaning. → He insisted we take the bus.</p>