

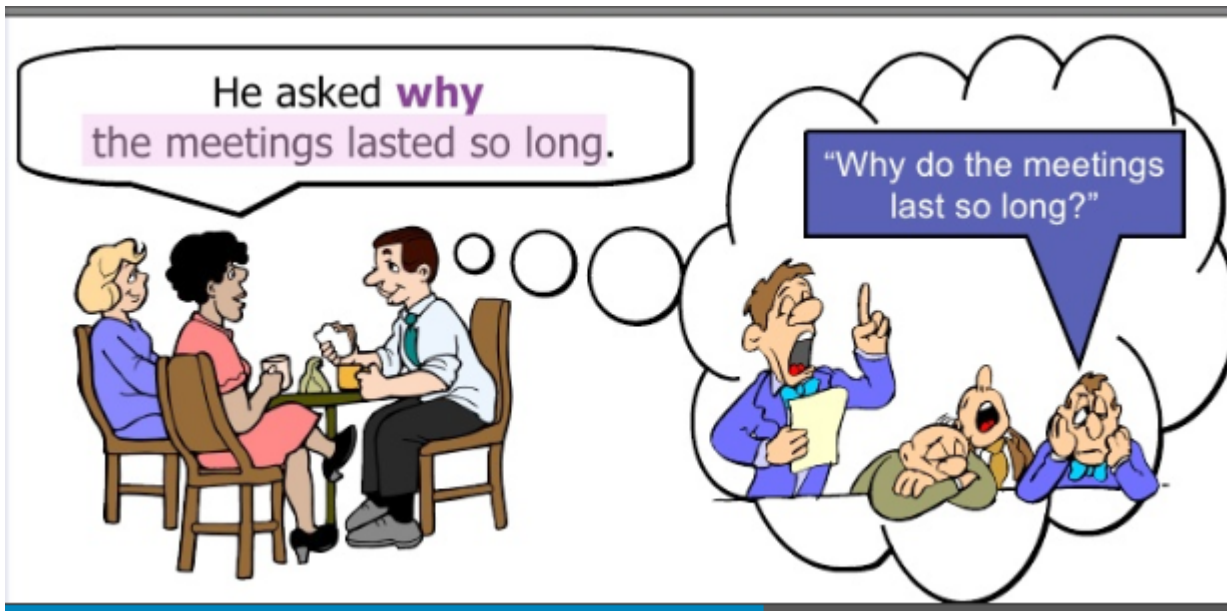
Unit six - Reported questions



Do you know what we mean by a **reported question**?

A reported question, which is one form of reported speech, is when we tell someone what another person *has asked*.

Reported Wh-questions



- We usually introduce reported Wh- questions with the verb **ask + the question word**.
- We may need to change the verb tense (**backshift** means that we return one step back in time), as well as some pronouns and (time and place) expressions.
- When we report a wh- question, we should change the word order; it becomes like an affirmative statement (S- V-O), and there is no question mark.

e.g. "Where do you go?" (Direct question)

Sara asked me **where I went**. (Reported question)

Reported Wh- questions in all tenses

Tense in direct questions	Tense in reported questions
Present Simple e.g. "When does the bus leave?"	Past Simple He asked when the bus left.
Present Continuous e.g. "What is he doing?"	Past Continuous Sami asked what he was doing.
Present Perfect Simple e.g. "How has technology changed the life?"	Past Perfect Simple The teacher asked the students how technology had changed the life.
Present Perfect Continuous e.g. "How long have you been learning English?"	Past Perfect Continuous She asked me how long I had been learning English.
Past Simple e.g. "When did Salma come yesterday?"	Past Perfect She asked me when Salma had come the day before.
Past Continuous e.g. "What were you doing?"	Past Perfect continuous I asked Ola what she had been doing.
Past perfect e.g. "Where had mom put the bag?"	Past Perfect Mariam asked Manar where mom had put the bag.
Past Perfect Continuous e.g. "What had the children been drawing?"	Past Perfect Continuous She asked what the children had been drawing.
Modal verbs e.g. "What will you study after high school?"	Past form of the modal verb The teacher asked me what I would study after high school.

- The changes in place and time expressions are:

yesterday	the day before
ago	before
last week/ year/ day	the week/ year/ day before
now	then
today	that day
tonight	that night
at the moment	at that moment
tomorrow	the day after / the following day
next week/ year /day	(the following (week/ year / day the (week/ year day) after /
this	that
these	those
here	there

• The changes in pronouns are:

Pronouns in direct questions	Pronouns in reported questions
Subject pronouns	
I	(he / she (depending on the gender
you	I/ she / he / we / they
we	they
Object pronouns	
me	him / her
you	him/ her / us/ them
us	them
Possessive adjective	
my	his / her
your	my/ his her/our/their
our	their

Exercise 1:

Rewrite each of the following sentences, so that the new sentence has a similar meaning to the one before.

- “When did Hashim graduate?”
Sami asked me -----
- “How long have you been working here?”
Rand asked the girl-----
- “What do you do?”
Heba asked Nadeen -----

Exercise 2:

Choose the correct form of the verbs

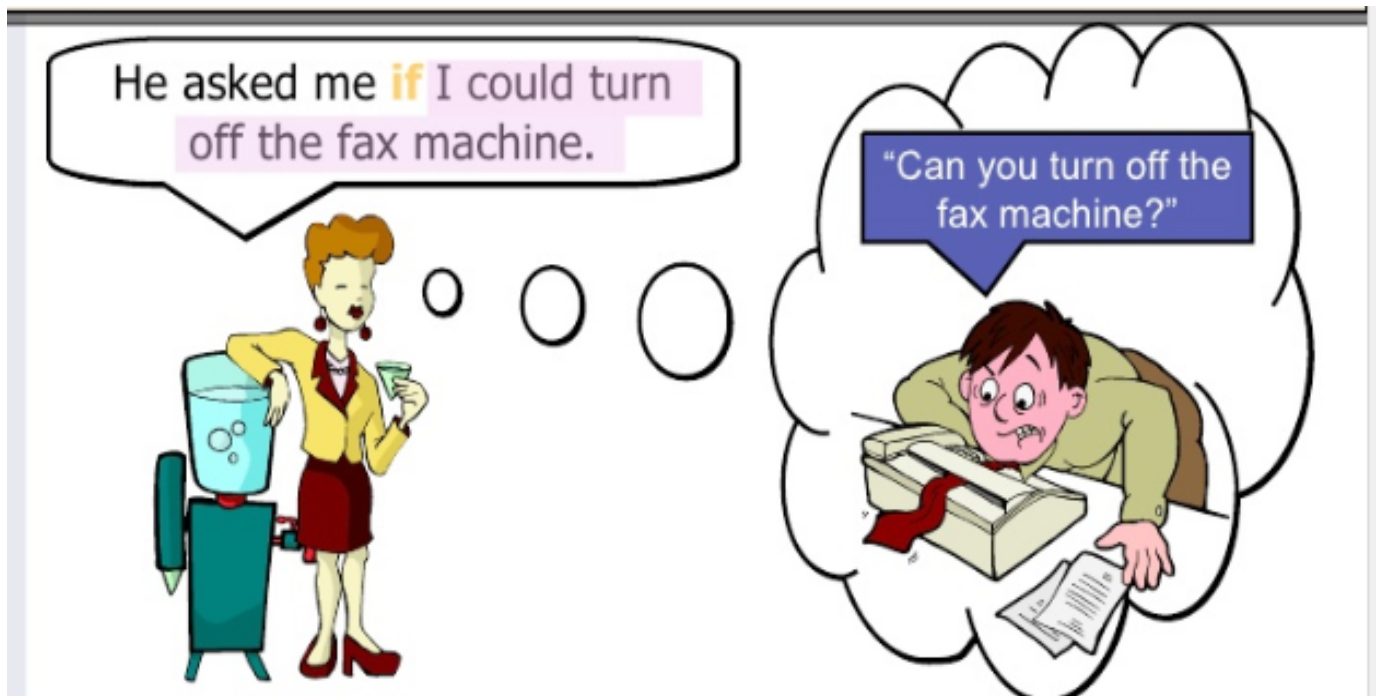
- Hani asked Majed where he -----
(lived, live, lives)
- Omar asked Sami where he ----- him for an hour.
(has been waiting, have been waiting, had been waiting)
- Lana asked me what I
(cook, cooked, am cooking)
- She asked when Farida
(had come, comes, has come)

Exercise 3:

Find the mistakes in the following sentences and correct them.

1. Kamal asked Maher what he is studying.
2. Hala asked Mona what was the time.
3. Omar asked Basel when he arrived?

Reported Yes / No questions



When we report Yes / No questions we follow the same steps as in Wh- reported questions.

- We introduce reported Yes / No questions with the verb **ask + if / whether**.

e.g. "Is Ali playing football?"

Bader asked **if / whether Ali was playing football**.

e.g. "Did you visit Petra?"

Hady asked me **if / whether I had visited Petra**.

Exercise 1:

Rewrite each of the following sentences, so that the new sentence has a similar meaning to the one before.

1. "Do you like bananas?"

Mariam asked Noor -----

2. "Is Sami playing football now?"

Raed asked-----

3. "Did you cook spaghetti last week?"

Maha asked me -----

Exercise 2:

Choose the correct form of the verb to complete the following sentences.

1. Noora asked me if I -----then.

(am studying, was studying, study)

2. He asked Sami whether he ----- the answer.

(knew, knows, has known)

3. Manar asked Maya if she-----her car the following week.

(has washed , washes , would wash)

4. Marah asked Ruba if shehappy the day before.

(is , was, had been)