

Introduction

In this topic we are going to study another type of reported speech, this time, we are going to focus on statements. Then we are also learning some vocabulary related to animals and we are writing an opinion essay.

Para saber más

Remember, once again, when you need to know the pronunciation of any word or you would like to practice some English words or phrases, write them under our robot Mike and he will be delighted to help you.



[Click here](#) to use Mike.

Comprueba lo aprendido

Paco has now arrived in San Francisco. What places can he visit there? Watch the following video and then do the activity below:

Write the number of these top five things to do in San Francisco with their descriptions below:

1. Golden Gate Bridge
2. Alcatraz Island
3. Fishermans Wharf
4. Cable Cars
5. Golden Gate Park

- ☐ is over three miles long.
- ☐ is located in the middle of San Francisco Bay.
- ☐ is known for its historic waterfront, seafood and shopping.
- ☐ are an accepted mode of daily transportation for residents.
- ☐ draws more than a million visitors every year.
- ☐ defines San Francisco.
- ☐ was the largest suspension bridge in 1937.
- ☐ offers some of the most incredible views of the Bay and Golden Gate Bridge.
- ☐ provide transportation to many of the city's most popular areas.
- ☐ is the second longest suspension bridge in the USA.
- ☐ is a place to play, relax and grow.

Enviar

Let's start with the topic in depth in the next section!



1. 'I'm going to Golden Gate Bridge', he said(direct+ indirect speech)



Actividad de lectura

Paco is now in San Francisco, the second Californian city he is visiting, with a population of more than 800,000 inhabitants. It is nowadays a very touristy place, especially well-known for its famous Golden Gate Bridge. Paco has already visited a few interesting places and is now relaxing at the hotel bar. There, he talks to another tourist who has just arrived in the city.

TOURIST: Are you visiting the city?

PACO: Yes. I've been to the famous Golden Gate Bridge today.

TOURIST: Did you enjoy it?

PACO: Sure! The girl at the tourist information office said that it was the second longest suspension bridge in the U.S.A.

TOURIST: Wow! We want to go there tomorrow. What else have you visited?

PACO: The girl told me that I had to visit Fisherman's [Wharf](#) , so I went there too.

TOURIST: What's that?

PACO: She said that it was a historic [waterfront](#) , famous for its seafood and shopping.

TOURIST: Have you been to Golden Gate Park?

PACO: Yes. The girl said that it was a wonderful place to relax.

TOURIST: Great! I'll take my children tomorrow. How can I get there?

PACO: You can use a cable car. Cable cars provide transportation to many of the city's most popular areas.

TOURIST: What about Alcatraz?

PACO: I haven't been there yet. I'm going tomorrow. It is located in the middle of San Francisco Bay. The girl told me that more than a million visitors go there every year.

TOURIST: Amazing city!



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Find examples of direct and indirect speech in the dialogue.

Comprueba lo aprendido

Read the text again and decide if the following statements are true or false:

1. Paco talks to a man at the reception.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐

2. Paco has already visited the famous bridge.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐

3. The man is travelling on his own.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐

4. You can get to the park by cable car.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐

5. Paco is planning to visit Alcatraz the following day.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐



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Ejercicio resuelto

Study this sentence from the text:

The girl at the tourist information office said that it was the second longest suspension bridge in the U.S.A.

What were the girl's original words?

" _____ ", the girl at the

Comprueba lo aprendido

What are the girl's original words in the other examples?

1. The girl told me that I had to visit Fisherman's Wharf.

" ", the girl told me.

2. She said that it was a historic waterfront.

" ", she said.

3. The girl said that it was a wonderful place to relax.

" ", the girl said.

4. The girl told me that more than a million visitors go there every year.

" ", the girl told me.

Enviar

Importante

Reporting verbs:

When you report what someone has already said, you must use a report verb. The two most common reporting verbs are: **SAY and TELL**

- **If you want to say the person the subject is talking to, use TELL.**

She told **me** that...

- **If you don't want to say the person, use SAY.**

She said that...



Para saber más

Learn more about direct and indirect speech by having a look at this [website](#) .

Let's continue in the next section!

2. 'You can use a cable car', said Paco (reported speech)



Ejercicio resuelto

Watch the following video about direct and indirect speech and then answer the questions below:

Do the following statements refer to direct (quoted) or indirect (reported) speech?

- uses the exact words of the speaker
- does not use the exact words
- uses quotation marks
- does not use quotation marks
- the original words can be stated at the beginning or at the end
- we can name the speaker at the beginning or at the end
- we use 'that' after the reporting verb
- if the name of the speaker is at the end, we can switch around the reporting verb and the speaker (Jennifer said - said Jennifer)
- with a pronoun, we have to say 'she said' (not 'said she')

Comprueba lo aprendido

Are the following examples of direct or indirect speech correct (true) or incorrect (false)?

1. Maria said me that she was happy with her job.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐  

2. Paco told Sonia that he had visited Golden Gate Bridge.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐  

3. We'll visit the park too, he said.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐  

4. "We'll go to the museum", said he.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐  

5. She said that "I will go with you".

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐  



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Importante

Remember that in reported speech we need to make some changes so that the statement makes sense. For example, the subject must always agree with the verb.

The most important changes are:

- **Verb tense: one step back.**

| Direct | Indirect |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| present simple | past simple |
| present continuous | past continuous |
| past continuous | past continuous |
| past simple | past perfect |
| present perfect | past perfect |
| past perfect | past perfect |
| will | would |
| can | could |
| may | might |

| Direct | Indirect |
|---------------|-----------------|
| I | me |
| you | you |
| he | him |
| she | her |
| it | it |
| we | us |
| you | you |
| they | them |

- References to time or place.

| Direct | Indirect |
|---------------|--------------------|
| this | that |
| these | those |
| here | there |
| today | that day |
| tonight | that night |
| tomorrow | the following day |
| yesterday | the day before |
| next week | the following week |
| last week | the week before |
| two weeks ago | two weeks before |

Comprueba lo aprendido

How would we change the following references to time or place?

| DIRECT SPEECH | REPORTED SPEECH |
|----------------------|------------------------|
|----------------------|------------------------|

| | |
|---------------|--|
| this | <input type="text"/> |
| these | <input type="text"/> |
| here | <input type="text"/> |
| today | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| tonight | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| tomorrow | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| yesterday | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| next week | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| last week | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| two weeks ago | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |

Enviar

Para saber más

Consolidate reported statements and all the necessary changes by having a look at the video:



Let's finish with reported speech in the next section!

3. The girl said that it was a wonderful place (reported speech)



Ejercicio resuelto

Let's study the following examples:

"I'm taking this cake to my grandma tomorrow", she said.

She said that she was taking that cake to her grandma the following day.

What changes have we made in the reported statement?



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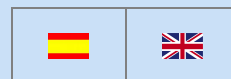
Importante

Remember the changes we normally have to do with verbs (one step back):

| DIRECT SPEECH | EXAMPLE | INDIRECT SPEECH | EXAMPLE |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Present simple | "I live there" | Past simple | He said he lived there |
| Present continuous | "He is walking" | Past continuous | He said he was walking |
| Past simple | "She worked here" | Past perfect | He said that she had worked there |
| Present perfect | "We have been here before" | Past perfect | He said that they had been there before |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-------|-------------------------|
| | | | would do it. |
| Can | "They can swim" | Could | He said they could swim |

Past perfect, *would*, *could*, *should* don't change.



Comprueba lo aprendido

Transform the following statements into reported speech:

1. "I will buy you a present", she promised him.

She promised him that .

2. "I saw the thief coming out of this shop", she said.

She said that .

3. "I can run the marathon today", she said.

She said that .

4. "We're staying at home tonight", they told us.

They told us that .

5. "I have just arrived here", he said.

He said that .

6. "We live in London", he said.

He said that .

Enviar

Para saber más

Practice reported statements by doing these exercises:

[Exercise 1](#)

[Exercise 2](#)

[Exercise 3](#)

Curiosidad

Did you know that Alcatraz was once a prison?

Alcatraz Island, as you have learned in this topic, is located in the San Francisco Bay. It is also called 'The Rock', and has been used as a lighthouse, as a military fortification and as a prison. It has been such an important jail that many films and books have used it in their plots. Well-known criminals have been imprisoned in Alcatraz, such as Al Capone in 1934.

Nowadays, the island is a historic site open to the public.



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Let's go to the next section! We'll learn about animals.

Actividad de lectura

One day, Paco decided to visit Yosemite National Park. It is about 320 km from San Francisco, and it is best known for its beautiful waterfalls. It is one of the first wilderness parks in the U.S.A., with ancient sequoias, vast **meadows** and deep valleys.

There are many activities one can do in Yosemite, such as skiing, climbing, rafting, biking or golfing. Apart from this, there are many tours so that you can admire the wonderful scenery of the park. As Paco was not spending so much time in Yosemite, he decided to go on a tour to see the amazing flora and fauna.

Paco is a nature lover. He prefers natural parks to zoos because he thinks it is cruel to keep animals in such a small place, usually very different from their natural habitat. Yosemite includes a wide variety of animals such as the American Black Bear, the Mule Deer, the Gray Fox, the White-headed Woodpecker or the **spotted** Owl. Some animals have become extinct with time, and others are considered endangered species.



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What names of animals are mentioned in the text?

Comprueba lo aprendido

Read the text again and decide if the following statements are true or false:

1. Paco is planning to ski in Yosemite.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐

2. Paco likes zoos.

5. Paco wants to see the animals in Yosemite.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐



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Ejercicio resuelto

In the text, we have read Paco's opinion of zoos: "He prefers natural parks to zoos because he thinks it is cruel to keep animals in such a small place, usually very different from their natural habitat."

Put these expressions in 3 groups depending on whether they are used to:

- 1) give an opinion;**
- 2) agree; or**
- 3) disagree**

I believe, I wouldn't go that far, As far as I'm concerned, , It seems to me that, I agree with, This idea is absolutely right, To my mind, I think it is a bad idea, In my opinion

Actividad de lectura

following topic.



By [Olivander](#) , C. Commons

- **Do you think wild animals should be kept in captivity?** ([Click here](#) to read a model opinion essay on this topic, You can find also useful information about writing essays [here](#) and [here](#)) .

Para saber más

Would you like a quick visit to Yosemite National Park? Click on the video.

And that's it! Now go to the 'Practice your English' section.

5. Practise your English

Finally, we offer you a group of activities so that you can apply all you have learned in this topic. Click on the image below and good luck.



Here you can [download these exercises](#) if you want to.

If you want to work with them decompress and then click on the **INDEX** file.

Actividad de lectura

Paco visited Alcatraz island a few days ago. It is a very famous spot located in San Francisco Bay which was once a prison. When he was visiting the place, he met a nice young man who spoke about the popular film *Escape from Alcatraz*. He said that he had seen the film about ten times. He told Paco that he was a fan of Clint Eastwood, the principal character of the film.

Paco got interested on it and checked some information on the Internet. The film is based on the book with the same name. It is a thriller from 1979 that focuses on the difficulties of prison life and conditions. The comments from the net said that it was supposed to be a escape-proof prison, that is, nobody could escape from it. However, Clint Eastwood together with two other men tried to do it and whether they were succesful or not remains a mystery.



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Identify all the reported statements that you can find in the text.

Comprueba lo aprendido

Read the text again and decide if the following statements are true or false:

1. Paco visited the former Alcatraz prison.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐

2. Paco had seen the film before.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐

3. The young man liked Clint Eastwood.

Verdadero ☐ Falso ☐

Ejercicio resuelto

Which were the original words?

1. *He said that he had seen the film about ten times.*
2. *He told Paco that he was a fan of Clint Eastwood.*
3. *The comments from the net said that it was supposed to be a escape-proof prison.*

Comprueba lo aprendido

Transform these sentences into reported statements:

1. 'I am on holiday at the moment', she said.

She said that .

2. 'Susan often watches TV after dinner', Tom said.

Tom said that .

3. 'My friends helped me finish the house', he told me.

He told me that .

4. 'I have been to London many times', he said.

He said that .

5. 'I will stay here for the whole week', he told us.

He told us that .

Enviar

Well done!