



'I have a dream . . .'

In 1963, Martin Luther King said that he had a dream . . .

Presentation

You use reported speech (or indirect speech) to report someone's words from the past:

'I have a dream.' → *In 1963, he said that he had a dream.*

that

You often use the conjunction *that* after the reporting verb. There is no difference.

*In 1963, he said **that** he had a dream. ✓*

*He thought **that** he could change people. ✓*

In 1963, he said he had a dream. ✓

He thought he could change people. ✓

Change in tense

When you report what someone said, you often move the tense 'backwards'.

present simple → past simple (I **have** a dream. → He said he **had** a dream.)

present continuous → past continuous (You'**re meeting** me at six. → You said you **were meeting** me at six.)

present perfect → past perfect (We'**ve finished** the book. → They said they **had finished** the book.)

will → *would* (I'**ll call** you back. → Gill said she'**d call** me back.)

can → *could* (We **can** help you. → They said they **could** help us.)

past simple → past perfect (We **wanted** more time. → They said they **had wanted** more time.)

Change in pronoun

Sometimes, you also need to change the pronoun. In this speech *I* becomes *he* because another person is talking about Martin Luther King:

Martin Luther King: *'I have a dream.'*

Other person: *In 1963, he said that **he** had a dream.*

1 Rewrite these sentences using reported speech.

- 1 He said, 'I'm happy to help.'
- 2 They said, 'We're going out at seven.'
- 3 She said, 'I've done all my homework.'
- 4 He thought, 'They have forgotten my birthday.'
- 5 The politician said, 'I want to improve people's lives.'
- 6 The team said, 'We aren't going to win.'
- 7 She said, 'I'm busy so I won't come.'
- 8 He said, 'I don't know if I can come.'

Yesterday, he said that he was happy to help.....

They said that they

She said that she

He thought that they

The politician said she

The team said they

She said that she

He said that he

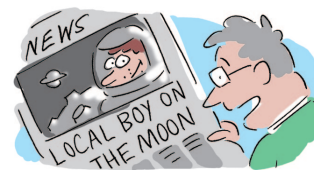
2 Complete the conversation. Use the words in bold and reported speech. Then listen and check.

- A: Are we **going out** with Peter and Nigella tonight?
- B: No, they said that they ¹ were going out somewhere else tonight, so they **can't meet**.
- A: Why didn't they tell us last week that they ²
- B: I don't know. Anyway, we're **having** dinner together next Friday instead.
- A: But you said that we ³ dinner with your parents next Friday.
- B: Yes, but they'll **be** on holiday.
- A: Really? You didn't tell me they ⁴ on holiday.
- B: Yes, I did. They've **booked** a holiday in France.
- A: I thought they said they ⁵ their holiday in Italy.
- B: No, they said France.
- A: So they **aren't going to** visit us before they go.
- B: No. They said they ⁶ have time to visit us.

3 Look at the before and after pictures. Then write sentences using direct speech.



- 1 You said that you knew how to drive it!
'I know how to drive it'.



- 2 He always said he was going to be an astronaut when he grew up.



- 3 You said you'd be home early.



- 4 I thought he said he could play the guitar.