

Reported speech – statements; Reported speech – questions and commands

1 Change these sentences into reported speech.

- 'I find *Macbeth* Shakespeare's most fascinating play,' the director said.
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- 'Tomorrow's concert will be my last,' the famous conductor told the reporters.
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- 'Her self-portraits are more interesting than her still life paintings,' the art critic said.
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- 'I must learn all the lyrics by heart before next week's gig,' Tom said.
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- 'I can't understand abstract art,' my grandmother once told me.
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2 Circle the correct alternative.

- Was it Oscar Wilde who said/told that all art was quite useless?
- Before the performance started, a voice off stage asked/asked to the audience to switch off their phones.
- You've always told/said you didn't like films with sad endings.
- The lead singer told/said the reporters that the band had decided to split.
- Our art teacher said/told us that people have often found Impressionism confusing.
- When the actors on stage asked/told to the audience to get up and dance, everybody stood up.

3 Put the words in order to make reporting sentences.

- He asked
us/the/was/what/about/conference
- Her fans wanted to know
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would/when/next/out/her/come/album
- She asked
science/books/librarian/the/were/fiction/where/the
- They asked
artist/graffiti/how/wall/the/had/high/he/that/up/got
- She asked
the/had/again/drawing/do/to/she/her/if/teacher

- The art critic wanted to know
.....
his/of/in/kinds/materials/what/paintings/used/
the artist

4 Report these commands using ask or tell.

- 'Buy the tickets online to avoid the queues,' the tour guide told the visitors.
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- 'Don't touch the sculptures!' the museum staff told the tourists.
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- 'Write an accurate description of the painting,' the teacher asked her students.
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- 'Play one more song,' the audience asked the band.
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- 'Don't look so frightened,' the director told the actor.
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5 Choose the best answers to complete the text.

A few years ago a British artist made a shocking statement when he said that taking children to art galleries was a total waste of time. He (1) a national newspaper that parents were arrogant if they (2) their children (3) abstract painters like Picasso or Jackson Pollock. However, Picasso himself once said that it (4) him four years to paint like the great Italian master Raphael but a lifetime to paint like a child. But he insisted that showing children a Pollock painting (5) an insult to the artist. Many figures in the art world strongly disagreed with him and said that 'art (6) be understood, but felt.' A national museum director said that children can certainly appreciate a work of art and they can all say (7) they like it or not, even if they probably don't understand it.

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|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 A told | B said | C told to |
| 2 A think | B had thought | C thought |
| 3 A couldn't understand | B could understand | C will understand |
| 4 A has taken | B had taken | C takes |
| 5 A was | B is | C has been |
| 6 A mustn't | B hadn't to | C didn't have to |
| 7 A when | B do | C if |