

Reported speech – statements, questions and commands

1 Look at these sentences. Change them into either direct or reported speech.

- 'This is the most fascinating play I have read in a long time,' the director said.
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- The conductor of the orchestra told the reporters that the following day's concert would be his last before he retired.
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- 'I think her still life paintings represent her better than her self-portraits,' the art critic said.
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- Tom said he had to learn the tunes of the songs before he wrote the lyrics.
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- 'I don't like abstract art because I can't understand it,' my grandmother once told me.
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2 Complete these sentences with *said, told or asked*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

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

3 Write these questions in reported speech.

- 'What was the conference about?', the teacher asked a colleague.
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- 'When will your next album come out?', her fans wanted to know.
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- 'Where are the science fiction books?', she asked the librarian.
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- 'How did you get up that high wall?', they asked the graffiti artist.
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- 'Do I have to do the drawing again?', the student asked the teacher.
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- 'What kind of materials do you use in your paintings?', the art critic asked the artist.
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4 Find and correct the mistakes. There are three incorrect sentences.

- The tour guide said the temporary exhibition was not included in the ticket.
- Some of the people in the queue asked what time did the box office open.
- The museum staff said the tourists not to touch the sculptures.
- The teacher asked her students what was the theme of the novel.
- Most people in the audience said the performance was a bit disappointing.
- The director told the actor not to look so frightened.

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.

- A told B said C said to D A or C
- A think B had C thought D have thought
- A can't B could C will D would
understand understand understand understand
- A has taken B had taken C takes D was taking
- A was B is C has been D will be
- A mustn't B hadn't to C didn't D B or C
have to
- A when B whether C if D B or C