

Extension exercises

Chapter 18: Reported and direct speech | Comments

Exploring language

Answers to these questions will depend on your choice of text or speaker, but it is likely that the more the user wishes to dramatise the event, the more direct speech will be used. The use of reporting verbs is likely to be greater where there is a concern to summarise or to interpret, and there is likely to be a greater variety of reporting verbs used in the description of an interaction where feelings and attitudes change and shift.

Course materials

Answers to these questions will depend on the coursebook you choose.

- 1 Books often provide very little in terms of natural models for reporting speech.
- 2 Books tend to be very strict about these 'rules'.
- 3 Students are often required to transform sentences (usually from direct to reported speech), and this kind of exercise is generally more common than more open-ended activities.
- 4 The effectiveness of any material may also depend on examinations the students are preparing for (if the examination requires them to transform isolated sentences, then they will need practice in this) and on the first language background of the students (for example, whether or not reporting speech in their own language requires the use of special forms of the verb).