



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Reported Speech in Media and Communication

Media and Communication | Reporting what people say | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	What did a news report say recently?
2	What did a teacher tell your class this week?
3	What did someone warn people about online?
4	What did an interviewee explain in a podcast or video?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Reporting News and Interviews

Journalists often report what people say. A presenter said that social media **was changing** the way people followed the news.

In an interview, a student explained that podcasts **helped** her practise listening skills. She also said that she **had started** listening to English news every morning.

Experts warned that online rumours **could spread** quickly. They told young people **to check** information before sharing it with friends.

3. Notice the pattern

Use reported speech to explain what someone said. The tense often moves back when the reporting verb is in the past.

Use	Form / signal	Example
Present -> past	is/am/are -> was/were	She said the story was true.
Past -> past perfect	started -> had started	He said he had started a podcast.
Modal changes	can -> could	They said rumours could spread quickly.
Requests/orders	told + object + to	The teacher told us to check sources.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	'Social media is changing news,' she said.	said that	
2	'I started a podcast,' he said.	had	
3	'Rumours can spread quickly,' experts warned.	could	
4	'Check the source,' the teacher told us.	told + to	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Report what someone said in an interview, podcast or video.
Writing	Write a short news paragraph reporting two comments from students.
Reading	Underline reported speech forms in the context text.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	She said that social media is changing news.	
2	He said he started a podcast before.	
3	Experts warned rumours can spread quickly.	
4	The teacher told us check the source.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. Why do journalists need to report people's words accurately?
2. Have you ever heard a rumour that was not true?
3. Should students be taught how to check online sources?
4. What did a recent news story say about young people?

Reported Speech in Media and Communication

4. Build accurate sentences

1. She said that social media was changing news.
2. He said that he had started a podcast.
3. Experts warned that rumours could spread quickly.
4. The teacher told us to check the source.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. She said that social media was changing news.
2. He said he had started a podcast before.
3. Experts warned that rumours could spread quickly.
4. The teacher told us to check the source.

Notes for checking

1. Present -> past: is/am/are -> was/were - She said the story was true.
2. Past -> past perfect: started -> had started - He said he had started a podcast.
3. Modal changes: can -> could - They said rumours could spread quickly.
4. Requests/orders: told + object + to - The teacher told us to check sources.