



## 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?

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## 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.