


# Grammar Chart

## Reported speech (He said that ...)



PAUL

I'm feeling ill.

You want to tell somebody what Paul said. There are two ways of doing this:  
You can repeat Paul's words (*direct* speech):  
Paul said, 'I'm feeling ill.'  
Or you can use *reported* speech:  
Paul said **that he was feeling ill.**

Compare:

<i>direct</i>	Paul said, '	I	am	feeling ill.'
<i>reported</i>	Paul said that	he	was	feeling ill.

In writing we use these quotation marks to show direct speech.

When we use reported speech, the introductory verb of the sentence is usually Past Tense (Paul said that ... / I told her that ... etc.). The rest of the sentence is often Past Tense, too:

- Paul **said** that he **was feeling** ill.
- I **told** Lisa that I **didn't have** any money.

In general, the Present form in direct speech changes to the Past form in reported speech:

<i>am / is</i> → <b>was</b>	<i>do / does</i> → <b>did</b>	<i>will</i> → <b>would</b>
<i>are</i> → <b>were</b>	<i>have / has</i> → <b>had</b>	<i>can</i> → <b>could</b>
<i>want / like / know / go etc.</i> → <b>wanted / liked / knew / went etc.</b>		

But: *wanted / liked / knew etc.* → **had wanted / had liked / had known etc.**

## Say and tell

If you say who you are talking to, use 'tell': to tell somebody

- Sonja **told me** that you were in hospital. (not: Sonja said me !)
- What did you **tell the police**? (not: say the police !)

Otherwise use 'say': to say somebody

- Sonja **said** that you were in hospital. (not: Sonja told that !)
- What did you **say**? (not: What did you tell !)

But you can **say** something **to** somebody: to say to somebody

- Sonja **said** goodbye **to** me and left. (not: Ann said me goodbye !)
- What did you **say to** the police? (not: What did you say the police !)