Reported Questions

Reported questions are one form of reported speech.

direct question	reported question
She said: "Are you cold?"	She asked me if I was cold.
He said: "Where's my pen?"	He asked where his pen was.

We usually introduce reported questions with the verb "ask":

- He **asked** (me) **if**/**whether**... (YES/NO questions)
- He **asked** (me) **why**/**when**/**where**/**what**/**how**... (question-word questions)

As with reported statements, we may need to change **pronouns** and **tense** (backshift) as well as **time** and **place** in reported questions.

But we also need to change the **word order**. After we report a question, it is no longer a question (and in writing there is no question mark). The word order is like that of a normal statement (subject-verb-object).

Reported YES/NO questions

We introduce reported YES/NO questions with **ask + if**:

direct question	She said,	**"Do you like coffee?"**
reported question	She asked	**if I liked coffee**.

Note that in the above example the reported question has no auxiliary "do". But there is pronoun change and backshift.

Note that we sometimes use "whether" instead of "if". The meaning is the same. "Whether" is a little more formal and more usual in writing:

- They asked us **if** we wanted lunch.
- They asked us **whether** we wanted lunch.

Reported question-word questions

We introduce reported question-word questions with **ask + question word**:

direct question	He said,	"Where	do you live?"
reported question	He asked me	where	I lived.

Note that in the above example the reported question has no auxiliary "do". But there is pronoun change and backshift.

Remember that there are basically three types of question:

1. YES/NO questions: *Do you want tea?*
2. Question Word questions: *Where did you drink tea?*
3. Choice questions: *Do you prefer tea or coffee?*

Reported choice questions have the same structure as Reported YES/NO questions. Questions with the verb BE always have a different structure: *Was the tea cold? Where is my tea?* You can see all these differences in the examples below.

Look at these example sentences:

	direct question	**reported question**
YES/NO questions	I said: "Can I help you?	I asked if I could help her.

	direct question	reported question
	She said to us: "Did you feel cold?"	She asked if we had felt cold.
	He said: "Are your hands cold?"	He asked whether my hands were cold.
question-word questions	He said: "Where are you going?"	He asked me where I was going.
	He said: "Why didn't you say something?"	He asked me why I hadn't said anything.
	He said: "When will they come?"	He asked when they would come.
	He said: "Who has seen Avatar?"	He asked me who had seen Avatar.
	He said: "How much might it cost?"	He asked me how much it might cost.
	She said to me: "Where is the station?"	She asked me where the station was.
choice questions	He asked, "Do you want tea or coffee?"	He asked whether I wanted tea or coffee.
	He said, "Is the car new or second-hand?"	He asked whether the car was new or second-hand.

Reported Requests

A request is when somebody asks you to do something – usually politely. Reported requests are one form of reported speech.

direct request	reported request
She said: **"Could you open the window, please?"**	She asked **me to open the window**.
He said: **"Please don't smoke."**	He asked **them not to smoke**.

We usually introduce reported requests with the verb "ask". The structure is very simple:

ask	+	noun pronoun	+	to infinitive

- We **asked** the man to help us.
- They **asked** us to wait.

Because we use the infinitive there is no need to worry about tense. But as withreported statements and reported questions, we may need to change **pronouns** as well as **time** and **place** in reported requests.

Here are some examples:

direct request	reported request
I said politely, "Please make less noise."	I asked them politely to make less noise.
She has often said to me, "Could you stay the night?"	She has often asked me to stay the night.
They said to the architect: "We'd like you to	They asked the architect to meet

direct request	reported request
meet us here tomorrow."	them there the next day.
She will certainly say to John, "Please stay for lunch."	She will certainly ask John to stay for lunch.
She always says, "Please don't forget me."	She always asks me not to forget her.

Notice above that we report a negative request by using **not**.

Reported Orders

An order is when somebody tells you to do something and you have no choice. It is not usually polite. It is a "command". Reported orders are one form of reported speech.

direct order	reported order
She said: **"Stop!"**	She told **him to stop**.

We usually introduce reported orders with the verb "tell". The structure is very simple:

tell	+	noun pronoun	+	to infinitive

- We **told** the man not to smoke.
- The policeman **told** us to follow him.

Because we use the infinitive there is no need to worry about tense. But as withreported statements and reported requests, we may need to change **pronouns** as well as **time** and **place** in reported orders.

Here are some examples:

direct order	**reported order**
She said, "Eat your food now!"	She told the boy to eat his food right then.
The policeman said: "Get out of your car!"	The policeman instructed us to get out of our car.
She said, "You must make the bed before you go to work!"	She told her husband to make the bed before he went to work.
The doctor said: "Don't smoke in here!"	The doctor told them not to smoke in there.

Notice above that we report a negative order by using **not**.

The most common verb for reporting an order is "tell", but we can also use other verbs such as: *order, command, instruct*. For example:

The sergeant **commanded** his men to stand straight.

Reported Speech Quiz

https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/reported-speech-quiz.htm