

Research Task: The Cambodia-Thailand Border Conflict

Language Focus: To practice using **reported speech** (also called indirect speech) to summarize

Objective: To understand the complex perspectives surrounding the Cambodia-Thailand border conflict by researching and summarizing different viewpoints.

Introduction: The Preah Vihear Temple

For over a century, Cambodia and Thailand have disputed sections of their shared border. At the heart of this conflict is the **Preah Vihear Temple** (known in Thai as **Prasat Phra Vihan**), an ancient Hindu temple complex built during the Khmer Empire. The temple sits atop a cliff in the Dângrêk Mountains, a natural border between the two nations.

Both countries have made historical and cultural claims to the temple and the land surrounding it. The dispute has been heard by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on multiple occasions and has sometimes led to armed clashes.

Your task is to investigate what the different parties involved have said about this conflict.

Language Focus: Using Reported Speech

Key Features:

- **Reporting Verbs:** Instead of just using "said," try more descriptive verbs like:
 - *stated, claimed, argued, announced, reported, explained, maintained, insisted, accused, denied, urged*
- **Tense Changes:** The verb tense in the original statement often shifts "back" one tense.
 - *Direct Speech:* "The temple **is** on our territory."
 - *Reported Speech:* The official claimed that the temple **was** on their territory.
- **Pronoun Changes:** Pronouns often need to change to reflect the new perspective.
 - *Direct Speech:* "We will protect **our** heritage."
 - *Reported Speech:* The minister stated that they would protect **their** heritage.

Task: Research and Report

Find at least one reliable source (e.g., a major news organization, government website, or official UN report) for each of the three perspectives below. For each source, summarize the main arguments using **reported speech**.

Submission Checklist

- [] I have found at least one source for each of the three perspectives.
- [] I have cited my sources.
- [] I have written a summary for each perspective.
- [] I have used **reported speech** correctly in all three summaries.
- [] I have used a variety of reporting verbs.

Part 1: Cambodia's Position

Guiding Questions: What is Cambodia's claim based on? What have Cambodian leaders or government ministries said about the conflict? What do they say about international law or historical maps?

Source (APA7) _____

Summary of Cambodia's Position:

Part 2: Thailand's Position

Guiding Questions: What is Thailand's counter-claim? What have Thai leaders or government officials argued? How do they interpret the historical maps and legal rulings?

Source (APA7) _____

Summary of Thailand's Position:

Part 3: The International Perspective

Guiding Questions: What has an international body like the United Nations (UN) or a major international news source (like BBC, Reuters, Al Jazeera, Associated Press) reported about the situation?

Source (APA7) _____

Summary of the International Perspective:
