

Reported Speech: Talking About the Past

When we report what someone said in the past, the verb tense "moves back" one step.

Simple Past -> Past Perfect

When someone's direct speech is in the **Simple Past** (did, went, ate), we report it using the **Past Perfect** (had done, had gone, 'had eaten').

- **Direct:** "I **visited** my grandmother."
- **Reported:** He said (that) he **had visited** his grandmother.
- **Direct:** "We **didn't go** to the mall."
- **Reported:** They said (that) they **hadn't gone** to the mall..

Example Reading: After the Break

Read the short story about what three friends said after their October break.

Mark: "Over break, I **went** to the beach with my family. We **ate** lots of seafood, but it wasn't fresh. We **got** sick and **spent** the next couple of days in our room. The only person that **didn't get** sick was my little sister."

Ploy: "My break was quiet. I **stayed** home and **helped** my mom. We **cleaned** the house together. My mom said, 'You **were** a big help!'"

Nida: "My break was okay. I **visited** my cousins in Ayutthaya. We **rode** bicycles around the temples and **took** a lot of pictures. My cousin said, 'We **had** a great time.'"

Comprehension Check: True or False?

Read the reported sentences below. Circle **True** or **False** based on the reading.

1. Mark said that he had gone to the beach. (True / False)
2. Mark said that his little sister had gotten sick. (True / False)
3. Ploy's mom said that Ploy had been a big help. (True / False)
4. Nida said that she had taken a few pictures. (True / False)

Activity: Partner Interview

Part 1: Ask Your Partner

Ask your partner 3 questions about their October break. Listen to their answers (which will be in the Simple Past).

- *What **did** you do?* *Where **did** you go?* *What **did** you eat?*

Part 2: Report Your Partner's News

Now, write down what your partner told you. Use Reported Speech (Past Perfect).

Example: *My partner said that she **had visited** her cousins.*

- _____
- _____
- _____