

## Teachers's notes

Reported Speech can be a tricky topic to teach and some teachers wisely decide to not formally teach it and just tackle it as it comes up. This lesson plan is an attempt to put together some activities to practice Reported Speech, how you approach the grammar explanation is down to you.

Step 1. Get the students to read the text alone and guess which word has been blanked out (gossip). Then go through the text again and answer any questions.

Step 2. Go through the discussion questions and ask students to discuss them in small groups and then report back to the class.

Step 3. Give out the quotes which have become 'accidentally mixed up' and get students to match the quotes with the celebrity. WARNING - these quotes are very culturally specific, maybe you want to come up with some of your own.

Step 4. Use these quotes to explain the grammar of Reported Speech.

Step 5. Get students to rewrite the sentences as reported speech and then go through the answers.

Step 6. Students interview each other in pairs and note down keywords from their partner's answers. Students then report what they have found out to the class.

### What word is blanked out in this text?

Forget all the advice people gave you about not ing. Researchers have just discovered that  may be good for our health. Scientists from the University of California say that having a good  has health benefits for both the er and the listener. They say it can help control bad behaviour towards others and reduce stress levels. This means the office  may be more of a help than a nuisance. However, it may make the person being ed about more stressed.

The scientists did a large number of tests on people to see the effects of  on our brain. They asked those taking the test to listen to different kinds of "pro-social"  – this is information and warnings about untrustworthy people. Dr Robb Willer, co-author of the study said: " made them feel better....  gets a bad rap, but we're finding evidence that it plays a critical role in the maintenance of social order." Maybe next time you're feeling down, you should pass on some juicy .

<http://www.newsenglishlessons.com>

### Discuss these questions with your partner

Have you heard any juicy  recently?  
Where's the best place to catch up on the latest ?  
Do you pay much attention to celebrity ?  
Who are the most ed about personalities?

**Here's some recent quotes from the gossip mags:**

"I don't walk around all day twerking with my tongue out," - Cliff Richard

"I'm still cool" - Arnold Schwarzenegger

"I'll be back for Terminator 5" - Sven Goran Eriksson

"England can't win the 2014 world cup" - Miley Cyrus

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1. "I live in Kölln now."

he said...

2. "I can't drive."

he told me...

3. "I'm working very hard at the moment."

she says...

4. "I think it's a bad decision."

he told me...

5. "there isn't enough time to write a new project plan."

she informed me...

6. "We won't be able to meet the deadline."

she warned us...

7. "I will call you back before the end of the day."

he promised...

8. "We don't need to write a press release."

she said...

Ask your partner the following questions and take **short notes** of his/her answers.

**1.** Where will you be this time tomorrow?

**2.** What's the first thing you do when you get to work?

**3.** What are you working on at the moment?

**4.** How long can you hold your breath?

**5.** What do you want for Christmas (or your next birthday)?