

6 Grammar: Reported Speech / Reporting Verbs - Answer Key

Text: Party Games – Using Europe in British Politics? (pp. 51 f.), from: David Beal, *Britain in Europe*, Viewfinder Topics (München: Langenscheidt, 2010).

B EXERCISES ON REPORTING VERBS

1 REPLACE THE WORD “SAID”

1. “I can speak English fluently,” she **bragged**.
2. “Let’s go out tonight,” he **suggested**.
3. “Be quiet, Tom,” **shouted** the girl.
4. “That purse belongs to me,” she **claimed**.
5. “No, it wasn’t my fault,” the little boy **protested**.
6. “I will always love you,” **whispered** his girlfriend.
7. “If the weather is good enough, we’ll go”, they **agreed**.

2 NOW REWRITE THE ABOVE SENTENCES IN REPORTED SPEECH

1. She bragged that she could speak English fluently.
2. He suggested that they should go out that evening.
3. The girl shouted at Tom to be quiet.
4. She claimed that the purse belonged to her.
5. The little boy protested that it hadn’t been his fault.
6. His girlfriend whispered that she would always love him.
7. They agreed that they would go if the weather was good enough.

3 REWRITING "PARTY GAMES"

a) Rewrite ll. 1 to 18 (p. 51) in reported speech. Use at least 5 different reporting verbs.

Model answer:

Jim Hacker predicted that by the end of the year they would be waving goodbye to the good old British sausage and would be forced to accept some foreign muck like salami or bratwurst or something in its place.

When Bernard Woolley wanted to know if they [the EU] could stop them eating the British sausage, Jim Hacker answered that they could stop them calling it the sausage. He added that apparently it had to be called emulsified high fat offal tube.

Then Bernard Woolley wondered whether Hacker had swallowed that; Jim Hacker replied that it was his job to implement EEC regulations and that this could finish his career.

Next, Bernard Woolley asked Jim Hacker what they had got against their sausage. Jim Hacker wanted to know if he [Woolley] never read the papers he gave him.

b) From reported speech to direct speech – write down the original dialogue.

Solution: see p. 53, ll. 207-224.

4 BEING A REPORTER

Model answer:

February 24, 2012

The Sausage Scandal

The British sausage renamed "emulsified high-fat offal tube"?

Daniela Pröls, *The Edward Sun*

London. Rumours have it that the European Commission is about to rename the British sausage "emulsified high-fat offal tube". Several unofficial statements on the topic could be heard from the Houses of Parliament yesterday. A Conservative MP said that in his opinion the Europeans were becoming impossible. He criticised that they first took money from the British for their wine lake, then they stopped the British exporting their lamb and now they wanted to ban the British sausage. In yesterday's discussion, a Liberal Democrat MP didn't share this view. He said that all the European Commission wanted was to have clear labelling. A Labour MP countered that in his opinion it was a bit more complicated than that. Harmonisation would stop the British calling their sausage a sausage. The Conservative agreed that the best sausage in the world couldn't be called a sausage anymore. The Liberal Democrat admitted that the "best sausage in the world" was full of fat, rind, gristle and water. The Labour MP considered this a typical Liberal Democrat exaggeration. The Conservative added that it is the taste that counts. He asked if his colleagues really wanted to eat salami or bratwurst with their fried egg, bacon and tomato.

On the whole, it appears that the British sausage should get a different label – but not "offal tube".

(Daniela Pröls)