

Reported Speech

We use reported speech when we want to tell someone what someone said. We usually use a reporting verbs: say, tell, ask, etc.. We often use a tense which is 'further back' in the past, for example:

Simple past changes to Past perfect.

Direct speech: simple past

"I visited some indigenous communities in the Highlands and the Amazon."

told + someone + (that) + clause

Reported speech: past perfect

My friend Henry told me that he had visited some indigenous communities in the Highlands and the Amazon.

Direct speech: simple past

"We visited Otavalo city and we bought colorful handicrafts."

said + (that) + clause

Reported speech: past perfect

My parents said that they had known Otavalo city and they had bought colorful handicrafts

