

Reported Speech

Read this letter to the editor:

My neighbour, who is 59, lost his job two years ago. He had had an accident at work the summer before and had lost the use of his right arm. The other day he told me that he wasn't able to find a new job at his age and was quite happy to be "on the dole". I really object to people earning so much money from the Welfare State.

L.Pond (Mrs.)

Salford

- A reporter went to the man who had lost his job because of the accident and asked him these questions:

- 1) When did the accident happen?
- 2) What were you doing at that moment?
- 3) Did the factory pay all the costs?
- 4) Are you getting as much from the State?
- 5) At first, did you look for a new job?
- 6) Are there no other jobs you can do?
- 7) Do you know any others who are in the same position?
- 8) Do they think the same as you do?
- 9) Is it unpleasant to be out of work?

After the interview, a young colleague asked the reporter what questions he had asked, and the reporter told him:

- 1) *I asked the man when ...*

Continue ... using reported speech, of course!

- The reporter had also asked other questions. He told his colleague that he had wanted to find out from the man what the accident had meant to him.
He had asked the man: "What did the accident mean to you?"

Here is what else the reporter had asked. What were his exact words?

- 1) I wanted to know what his family thought about it.
- 2) I also asked him if it had taken him a long time to get used to his stiff arm.
- 3) Then I wanted to find out how he had managed in the beginning.
- 4) I asked him what had been the greatest help after the accident.
- 5) He asked me why I wanted to know all that.
- 6) He wondered whether I thought people were interested in the article I was going to write.

The day after her letter had appeared in the Manchester Evening News, Mrs Pond met Mrs Farnham, the old lady next door, in the street. Here is what Mrs Farnham said to Mrs Pond:

"I've just read the letter you wrote to the Evening News. I quite agree with you. There's a lot wrong with this country. I just can't understand why there aren't more people who want to do something about it. Do you remember, for example, that last winter between forty and sixty old people died of the cold in this country because their rooms weren't warm enough? I'm sure nothing like this has ever happened in other countries. And oil and gas prices have gone up again! Only last week I had to pay £40 for heating alone. And our pensions are still only £ 60 a week. Sometimes you can either have a decent meal or a few hours' heating, but not both. The government will have to raise our pensions to at least £90 a week."

Mrs Pond, who hadn't realized before how hard life could be for some old people, decided to write another letter to the Evening News. She sat down at once when she came home and began:

Sir,

*An old lady who **had read** my letter to your newspaper earlier this week talked to me in the street today. She said ...*

Complete the letter using some of the following reporting verbs (verbs of saying, thinking, asking etc.)

to add that	hinzufügen
to admit that	zugeben
to agree	zustimmen
to ask (if/question word)	fragen
to complain that	sich beklagen
to exclaim that	ausrufen
to explain that	erklären
to feel that	fühlen
to mention that	erwähnen
to promise that	versprechen
to remark that	bemerken
to remind sb that	jdn. erinnern an
to say that	sagen
to tell someone that	jdm. sagen/erzählen
to want to know (if/question word)	wissen wollen
to whisper that	flüstern
to wonder (if/question word)	sich fragen