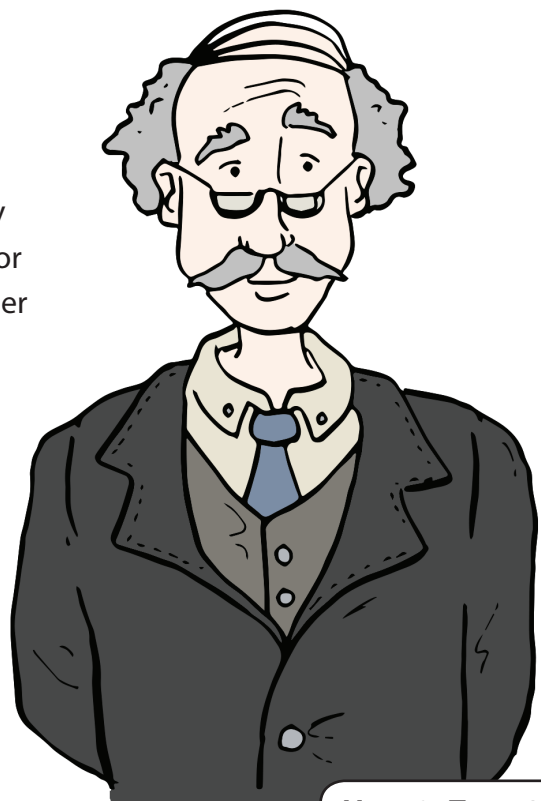


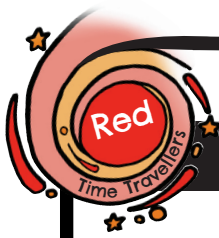
Eventually, Malcolm calmed down and Mr Crookshaw began to whittle the truth out of us. Initially, Malcolm claimed that the village boy had hit him first. Then he said he had only hit him in self-defence. Then he said that the boy had called him a “snotty-nosed evacuee”. The boy, who had also been called into the office, said that all he had done was to try to stop us spreading lies about Mr Crookshaw being a German spy. Mr Crookshaw asked Kenneth and me if this was true and we had to agree that it was. Finally, Malcolm admitted that it was an unprovoked attack, but he had no choice on account of the top-secret information he had received. Mr Crookshaw wanted to know what information this would be. Malcolm was reluctant to tell him at first, but then he confessed that I was a secret agent on a mission to expose German spies. Mr Crookshaw laughed at this and asked us why on earth we should think he was a spy.

I began to feel sick inside when I realised that now that Malcolm was blabbing, it wouldn't be long before he told the teacher about my false name. Once Mr Crookshaw had convinced Malcolm that it was a ridiculous notion him being a spy, Malcolm looked for others to blame. He told Mr Crookshaw that Kenneth had persuaded him of the fact. Mr Crookshaw wanted to know why Kenneth had suggested such a foolish idea in the first place. I was now concerned that Kenneth would dob me in it, but he remained loyal and said he was just pulling a practical joke on Malcolm. Malcolm, however, not wanting to appear gullible, decided to grass me up. “That boy,” he said, pointing at me, “isn't Duncan Spooner! He's an imposter!” I denied this and quickly said I had no idea what Malcolm was talking about. This seemed to confuse Mr Crookshaw who couldn't see the connection between my alleged change of name and him being accused of being a German spy. Luckily for me, Kenneth remained silent on the subject. By the end of the interview, I think Mr Crookshaw had arrived at the opinion that Malcolm was a complete fantasist, and put the whole thing down to a schoolboy prank. He made us say sorry to the village boy and promise not to fight in the future.

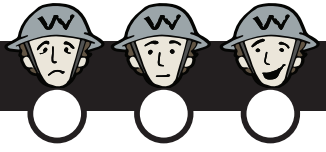
The rest of the day passed without incident, apart from the fact that Malcolm kept glaring at me with undisguised loathing and Kenneth had become very quiet and sullen. I realised that it would probably only take one phone call to the authorities in Manchester for Mr Crookshaw to discover that I wasn't Duncan Spooner and that Malcolm had, in fact, told the truth on that matter. I came to the decision that I needed to act sooner rather than later, and began to make plans to return to Manchester as soon as possible.

As we were walking back to Dr McKenna's house at the end of the day, Kenneth turned to me and said, “I'm not sticking up for you any longer unless you tell me who you really are, Drew Hargreaves.”





Name: _____



I can use reported speech.

Reported speech is when you tell somebody what you or somebody else had said before. You don't use speech marks in reported speech (indirect speech).

When changing direct speech into reported speech you usually have to change the pronouns, the tense, and sometimes place and time expressions.

"I want to know what you plan to do now," said Kenneth.

Pronoun: I changes to **he**

Tense: **want** changes to **wanted** (This change in tense is sometimes called a backshift.)

Time: **now** changes to **then** (or **next**)

Kenneth said he wanted to know what Drew planned to do next.

Change the direct speech to reported speech. (The words written in bold are the words you will need to change.)

1 "Why did **you** really **change your** name?" Kenneth asked me.
Kenneth asked me

2 "The police **are** after me and I **need** to hide my true identity," I replied.
I replied that

3 "But why **are** the police after **you**?" Kenneth wanted to know.
Kenneth wanted to know

4 "Because I **don't** belong **here**," I answered.
I answered that

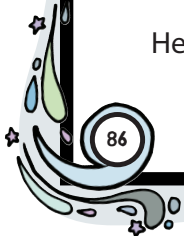
5 "Where **are you** from?" asked Kenneth.
Kenneth asked

6 "I **am** from the future," I replied truthfully.
I truthfully replied that

7 "That **is** even more ridiculous than **you** being a secret agent," Kenneth said.
Kenneth said that

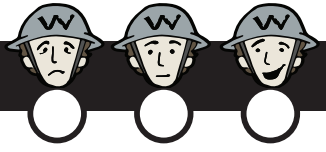
8 "**I am** going to find out who **you** really **are** by the end of **today**," he vowed.
He vowed that

Extension Now change the reported speech in the passage into direct speech.





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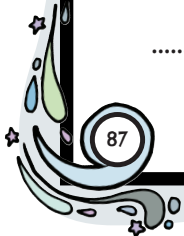
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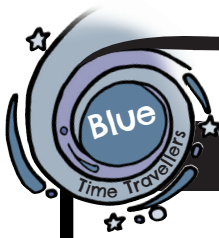
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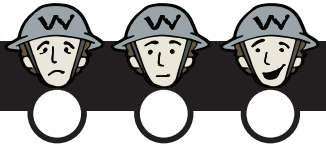
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