

Reported Speech in News Reporting

1. Reading Text

Title: *Inside the Investigation: How Journalists Exposed a Major Water Contamination Crisis*

Last month, a team of investigative journalists uncovered a large-scale water contamination crisis affecting more than 200,000 residents in the northern region. The investigation began when reporters noticed unusual complaints on social media about strange odors and discoloration in tap water.

Residents told the journalists, *"We have been complaining for weeks, but no one is listening."* Local officials responded by saying that the reports were "exaggerated" and that the water was safe to drink.

However, after independent laboratories confirmed the presence of dangerous chemicals, the Ministry of Environment announced, *"We are launching an urgent inquiry."*

Since the publication of the report, the factory suspected of causing the pollution has been temporarily shut down, and emergency water supplies have been distributed.

This investigation highlighted the essential role of journalism in protecting public health and holding institutions accountable.

2. Vocabulary Focus

Word	Meaning
announced	officially said something publicly
responded	replied to or reacted to something
complaints	expressions of dissatisfaction
inquiry	official investigation
confirmed	proved that something is true
exaggerated	made something seem bigger or worse than it is

3. Comprehension Questions

1. Why did residents complain about the water?
2. What did officials say about the situation?
3. What did the Ministry of Environment declare?
4. How did the journalists verify the issue?
5. Why is this investigation important?

4. Grammar Focus – Reported Speech for Journalists

Rewrite each statement in reported speech (indirect speech):

1. Residents said, *"The water smells strange."*
→ _____
2. Officials said, *"The situation is exaggerated."*
→ _____
3. The Ministry announced, *"We are launching an inquiry."*
→ _____
4. A local resident told reporters, *"No one has helped us so far."*
→ _____
5. The factory manager said, *"We follow all safety standards."*
→ _____

5. Language Activities

A. Choose the correct reporting verb:

(announced – claimed – warned – explained – admitted)

1. The Ministry _____ that immediate action would follow.
2. Officials _____ that the crisis was not serious.
3. Scientists _____ that the chemicals were dangerous.
4. The factory eventually _____ responsibility.
5. A doctor _____ that contaminated water could cause illness.

B. Transform the headline into a reported-speech sentence

1. **“Residents Demand Clean Water”**

→ _____

2. **“Factory Denies Causing Pollution”**

→ _____

3. **“Government Promises Emergency Measures”**

→ _____

6. Writing Task

Write a 10-sentence news article summarizing the crisis using reported speech.

Include at least four indirect statements and three reporting verbs