Reporting back

1 Read the following sentences in direct speech and rewrite them in reported speech. Use the pronoun and the verb in brackets.

1 My boss is great most of the time, but when she’s tired she loses her temper easily. (she/say)
2 I left my last job because I was bored. (he/tell)
3 When will he stop talking? I’m so confused! (she/ask)
4 Do you find that reading the papers at the moment is depressing? (he/ask)
5 You are a very wise person. (she/tell)
6 I’ve been working at this company for five years. (he/say)
7 Would you move to London for a better job? (she/ask)
8 Please don’t smoke in the office (she/tell)

2 Question time! Read the following questions and then find three other students to ask the questions to. Make notes of their answers.

1 What would be your ideal job?
2 What do you think makes a good boss?
3 Have you ever managed anyone? What was it like?
4 Do you think everyone has the potential to be a manager? Why/why not?
5 Do you think everyone should be allowed to work flexitime? Why/why not?
6 What sort of performance deserves a pay rise do you think?

3 Use reported speech to write down your favourite answer to each of the questions in Ex. 2.
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TEACHER’S NOTES:

Aim: to provide further practice of reported speech and the can do statement: report information. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 9.2.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials: photocopies of the worksheet for each student

1. Tell students to read the direct speech statements, Ask them to use the cues in brackets to transform these sentences into reported speech. Go around the class to monitor and make notes of any errors. Write the errors on the board and encourage peer correction. Then elicit answers from the class.

   **Answers:**
   1. She said (that) her boss was great most of the time, but when she was tired she lost her temper easily.  
   2. He told me (that) he’d left his last job because he’d been bored.  
   3. She asked me when he’d stop talking because she was so confused.  
   4. He asked me if I found (that) reading the papers at that time was depressing.  
   5. She told me (that) I was a very wise person.  
   6. He said (that) he’d been working at that company for five years.  
   7. She asked me if I’d move to London for a better job.  
   8. She told me not to smoke in the office.

2. Check that all students are clear on the meaning of each question. Tell students to find three students to interview. Ask them to note down key points of each answer. Monitor while they work to see if anyone needs help and encourage students to ask follow-up questions to enrichen the answers.

3. Ask students to read through all the notes they made and decide which is their favourite answer to each question. Tell them to report this information back by writing down each of their favourite responses using reported speech. Monitor while they work to check for accuracy. Students complete the activity by swapping with their partner and reading through each other’s favourite responses. Ask for some class feedback on particular favourites if there’s time.