CATHY: And then Steve **said** 'I don't want to see you ever again!'
JANICE: No! He didn't really say that?
CATHY: He did! He **said he'd had** enough of me wasting his time and money …
JANICE: Well! And what did you say?
CATHY: **I said I'd** never spent a penny of his money and I had plenty of my own.
JANICE: Quite right! Then what did he say?
CATHY: Well, he **said** 'You're a dirty little liar!' He shouted at me and I started to cry!
JANICE: I'm not surprised! Then what?
CATHY: **I said I wanted** him to go away and leave me in peace, and he **said he hoped** he never saw me again!
JANICE: No! But I **thought you were** getting married next week.
CATHY: Oh yes, we are. I'm afraid we do this kind of thing all the time. It doesn't mean anything.

❶ direct speech

When we want to say what we or someone else has said, or thought, we can do so in two ways. We can use *direct speech* or *indirect speech*.

In direct speech we say *exactly what was said or thought*, using verbs like **say**, **think**, **shout** etc. We usually use this form in writing and not very often in speaking. We use inverted commas (' ') to show what the person said:

- Paul **said** 'You're late!'
- Kelly **shouted** 'Get away from there!'
- I **thought** 'He doesn't really like me!'

We can write what the person said first or second. If it is first, we often use the verb before the name of the person speaking or thinking:

- 'Larry is my favourite actor,' **Tom said / said Tom**.
- 'I recognise that man,' **Andy thought / thought Andy**.

But if we are using a *pronoun* (**I**, **you**, **he**, **she**, **we**, **you**, **they**) we put it before the verb:

- 'I'm hungry,' he thought / ~~thought he~~.
- 'Don't worry!' she said / ~~said she~~.

We can use verbs that express the feeling of the speaker when we report what someone has said or thought. For example, we can use **hope**, **feel**, **be afraid**, **want**, **wish**:

- My sister **hopes** you can get tickets for the play.
- She **wants** to see the play tomorrow.
- She**'s afraid** you won't be able to get seats.

When we want to report what someone says to a particular person or people, we can use **say to** or **tell**:

- 'I'm leaving tomorrow,' Andy **said to** Lucy. OR 'I'm leaving tomorrow,' Andy **told** Lucy.

(For more on **say** and **tell**, see unit 34.)

❷ indirect speech: present and future

When we say or write *what we, or someone else, are saying or thinking at the moment*, we can use indirect speech with the present tense in both clauses, with or without **that**:

- Richard: 'I'm just leaving the station.' → Richard **says** that he**'s** just **leaving** the station.
- Dean: 'You mustn't worry about the cost.' → Dean **says** we **mustn't worry** about the cost.

We also use this form when we want to say *something that is always true*:

- Andy **says** he **doesn't like** drum and bass.