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reporting statements

To report what someone else says or thinks, link the main clause (**il dit**, **il pense**, etc.) and the subordinate clause with **que** (**qu'** in front of a word beginning with a vowel):

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|  Tex et Tammy ont une querelle d'amoureux. Fiona essaie de les raccommoder.

Tammy: Tu ne m'écoutes jamais!
Tex (devant la télé): Je n'ai pas entendu.
Fiona: Elle dit que tu ne l'écoutes jamais. | Tex and Tammy are having a lovers' tiff.
Fiona is trying to patch things up.

Tammy: You never listen to me!
Tex (in front of the TV): I did not hear.
Fiona: She is saying that you never listen to her. |
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reporting questions

To report simple yes/no questions, use **si**. Note that **si** changes to **s'** in front of a word beginning with an **i** (**s'il**), but does not change before other vowels (**si elle**, **si on**).

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|  Tammy: Est-ce que tu vas faire un effort?
Tex (toujours devant la télé): Quoi?
Fiona: Elle te demande si tu vas faire un effort.
Tex: Bien sûr, mais après le match de foot. | Tammy: Are you going to make an effort?
Tex (still in front of the TV): What?
Fiona: She is asking you if you are going to make an effort.
Tex: Sure, but after the soccer game. |
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To report an information question use the interrogative word **quand**, **comment**, **où**, etc.:

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|  Tammy: Où étais-tu hier soir? Comment as-tu rencontré cette grande blonde? Quand finit ce match?

Tex: Comment?

Fiona: Elle te demande où tu étais hier soir, comment tu as rencontré cette grande blonde et quand ce match finit . | Tammy: Where were you last night? How did you meet that tall blonde? When does this game finish?

Tex: Excuse-me?

Fiona: She is asking you where you were last night, how you met that tall blonde and when this game finishes. |
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To report questions starting with **que**, **qu'est-ce que**, and **qu'est-ce qui**, use **ce que** and **ce qui**. Note that the inverted subject and verb return to normal order when reporting a **que** question:

 Tex: Je ne comprends pas! Qu'est-ce qu'elle veut dire? Qu'est-ce qui se passe?

Fiona: Tammy, **Tex ne comprend pas ce que** tu veux dire. **Il ne comprend pas ce qui** se passe.

Tammy: Que faisait-il avec cette grande blonde?

Fiona: Tex, **Tammy veut savoir ce que tu faisais** avec cette grande blonde.

Tex: I don't understand! What does she mean? What's going on?

Fiona: Tammy, Tex does not understand what you mean. He does not understand what's going on.

Tammy: What was he doing with that tall blonde?

Fiona: Tex, Tammy wants to know what you were doing with that tall blonde.

reporting orders

To report an order, replace the imperative by **de (d')** + infinitive:

 Tammy: Tex, éteins tout de suite cette télévision! Ecoute-moi! Ne fais pas l'idiot!

Tex: Pardon?

Fiona: **Tammy t'ordonne d'éteindre** tout de suite cette télévision. En plus, **elle te dit de l'écouter. Elle te demande de ne pas faire** l'idiot.

Tammy: Tex, turn this TV off immediately! Listen to me! Don't be stupid!

Tex: Excuse me?

Fiona: Tammy is ordering you to turn this TV off immediately. And she is telling you to listen to her. She is asking you not to be stupid.

reporting answers

To report yes and no answers, use **que**:

 Plus tard, Fiona raconte la fin de l'histoire à ses amis.

Fiona: . . . et soudain, Tammy demande à Tex s'il peut éteindre la télé et il lui répond **que** NON.

Later, Fiona tells the end of the story to her friends.

Fiona: . . . and suddenly, Tammy asks Tex if he can turn off the TV and he answers NO.



exercises

fill in the blanks

Complete the sentences to report what Tammy and Tex are saying.

1. Tex : Que veut Bette?
=> Tex demande _____ Bette veut.
2. Tammy : Regarde-moi Tex!
=> Tammy dit à Tex _____.
3. Tex : Je suis fatigué.
=> Tex dit _____ fatigué.
4. Tex : Où vit Bette?
=> Tex demande _____ Bette vit.
5. Tammy : Est-ce que tu vas au cinéma?
=> Tammy demande _____ tu vas au cinéma.
6. Tammy : Quand est-ce que Tex rentre?
=> Tammy veut savoir _____ Tex rentre.
7. Tex : Qu'est-ce qui se passe?
=> Tex demande _____ se passe.
8. Tammy : Qu'est-ce que tu fais ce week-end?
=> Tammy demande _____ tu fais ce week-end.
9. Tammy : Tex, arrête de faire l'idiot!
=> Tammy dit à Tex _____ de faire l'idiot.
10. Tex : J'adore fumer!
=> Tex déclare _____ adore fumer.
11. Tex : Qui vient dîner ce soir?
=> Tex veut savoir _____ vient dîner ce soir.

12. Tammy : Chante la Marseillaise Tex!
=> Tammy demande à Tex _____ la Marseillaise.