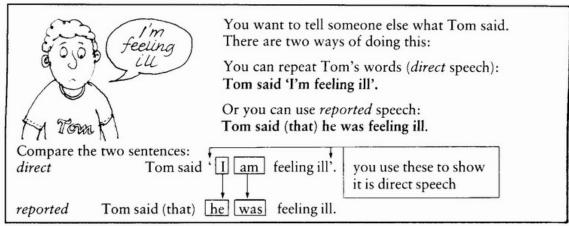
## **UNIT 47** Reported speech (1)

a) Study this example situation:



**b)** When we use reported speech, we are usually talking about the past. So verbs usually change to the past in reported speech. For example:

 $am/is \rightarrow was$  are  $\rightarrow were$  have/has  $\rightarrow had$  will  $\rightarrow would$  can  $\rightarrow could$  do/want/know etc.  $\rightarrow did/wanted/knew$  etc.

Study these examples. You met Tom. Here are some things he said to you:



Now you tell someone else what Tom said (in reported speech):

- Tom said (that) his parents were very well.
- Tom said (that) he was going to give up his job.
- Tom said (that) Ann had bought a new car.
- Tom said (that) he couldn't come to the party on Friday.
- Tom said (that) he wanted to go on holiday but he didn't know where to go.
- Tom said (that) he was going away for a few days and would phone me when he got back.
- c) The past simple (I did) can usually stay the same in reported speech, or you can change it to the past perfect (I had done):  $did \rightarrow did$  or had done

direct Tom said 'I woke up feeling ill and so I stayed in bed'.

reported Tom said (that) he woke (or had woken) up feeling ill and so he stayed (or had stayed) in bed.

For reported speech see also Units 48 and 50b.