

Grammar: Reported Speech(1)

Direct Speech

(also known as indirect speech)

Reported Speech

Greg: "I am cooking dinner Maya."

Maya: "Greg said he was cooking dinner."

So most often, the reported speech is going to be in the past tense, because the original statement, will now be in the past!

Take note:

Be careful with the use of your **commas/inverted commas** and other symbols in direct speech:

"I often play tennis," she **said**.
"I often play tennis!" she **shouted**.
"Do you often play tennis?" she **asked**.
She **said**, "I often play tennis."

(quotation marks)
**reporting verbs*

*We will learn about reporting verbs in part 2 of this lesson, but for now we will just use **said/told** as our reporting verbs.

Take note: the structures of **say and tell** are different:

1. when using **say**, we **cannot include** an object:

He said that (that) he was leaving.

2. when using **tell**, we **must include** an object:

*He told **John** (that) he was leaving.*

Usually, the reported statement is **one tense back** from the direct speech statement:

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Present Simple → Past Simple	
<i>"I often play tennis," she said.</i>	<i>She said (that) she often played tennis.</i>
Present Continuous → Past continuous	
<i>"We love going camping," he said.</i>	<i>He said (that) they loved going camping.</i>
Past Simple → Past Perfect	
<i>"I stayed in Rome," he said.</i>	<i>He told me (that) he had stayed in Rome.</i>
Present Perfect → Past Perfect	
<i>"Sue has eaten," Mila said.</i>	<i>Mila said (that) Sue had eaten.</i>
*Past Perfect → *Past Perfect	
<i>"Our taxi had just arrived," Connor said.</i>	<i>Connor told me their taxi had just arrived.</i>
Present Perfect Continuous → Past Perfect Continuous	
<i>"Ryan has been studying," Mila said.</i>	<i>Mila said (that) Ryan had been studying.</i>
Past Continuous → Past Perfect Continuous	
<i>"They were singing," she said.</i>	<i>She said (that) they had been singing.</i>

Some modal verbs change when using reported speech, as follows:



DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
can → could	
<i>"I can swim well," said Emma</i>	<i>Emma said (that) she could swim well.</i>
<i>"They can't get out," she said</i>	<i>She said (that) they couldn't get out.</i>
will → would	
<i>"I'll wash the dishes," Adam said.</i>	<i>Adam said (that) he would wash the dishes.</i>
<i>"I won't run very far," she said.</i>	<i>She said (that) she wouldn't run very far.</i>
must (for obligation) → had to	
<i>"We must go," he said.</i>	<i>He told me (that) they had to go.</i>
mustn't (for prohibition) → *shouldn't (mustn't)	
<i>"You mustn't touch that," he said.</i>	<i>He told me (that) I shouldn't touch that. He told me (that) I mustn't touch that.</i>

***mustn't** can also remain unchanged in reported speech.

TAKE NOTE:

1. If the direct speech statement includes the any of the following modal verbs, **they do not change** when transformed into reported speech:

may, might, would, should, ought to

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
might 	might
<i>"I might buy a new car," said Ryan.</i>	<i>Ryan told me (that) he might buy a new car.</i>
should 	should
<i>"They should try the local cuisine," Leo said.</i>	<i>Leo said (that) they should try the local cuisine.</i>

2. If the situation in the reported statement **hasn't changed** and is still true in the present, the reporting verb **can remain in the same form**:


DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
<i>"My son is four years old," said Marge.</i>	<i>*Marge said (that) her son is four years old.</i>
<i>"Vegetables are good for a healthy diet," he said.</i>	<i>*He said (that) vegetables are good for a healthy diet.</i>

*the above examples are still correct if you **do** convert the verbs to their past tenses:

Marge said (that) her son **was** four years old.

He said (that) vegetables **were** good for a healthy diet.

3. When we talk about places, if the direct speech statement includes **here**, it changes to **there** in the reported version:

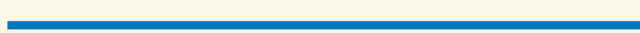






DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
here  there	
<i>“Have you been here before,” asked Kevin.</i>	<i>*Kevin asked if I had been there before.</i>
<i>“They make the best pizza here,” said Brandon.</i>	<i>Brandon said (that) they made the best pizza there.</i>

*The above examples also depend on **where** the reported statement is being made. For example, if the above reported statements are being made while the person reporting the information is still in the same place where the conversation took place, the reported speech could also be:

*Kevin asked if I had been **here** before.*

*Brandon said (that) they made the best pizza **here**.*

In reported Speech, **adverbs of time also change** as follows:

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
today(tonight) 	that day(that night)
<i>“Craig is going to the beach today,” she said.</i>	<i>She said (that) Craig was going to the beach that day.</i>
tomorrow 	the next day, the day after, the following day
<i>“We will fix it tomorrow,” he said.</i>	<i>He said (that) they would fix it the next day.</i>
yesterday 	the day before, the previous day
<i>“I went yesterday,” she said.</i>	<i>She said (that) she had been the day before.</i>
last week 	The week before
<i>“Shirley paid him last week,” he said.</i>	<i>He told me (that) Shirley had paid him the week before.</i>
this morning 	that morning
<i>“I washed my car this morning,” Mila said.</i>	<i>Mila said (that) she had washed her car that morning.</i>
next (Wednesday) 	the following (Wednesday)
<i>“We are leaving next Wednesday,” Connor said.</i>	<i>Connor said (that) they were leaving the following Wednesday.</i>
ago 	before
<i>“I arrived here a long time ago,” he said.</i>	<i>He said (that) he had arrived there a long time before.</i>

Task 12.1

Transform the following sentences from direct speech into reported speech:

1. "I am always in a bad mood on Monday mornings," said Brian.

2. "They were working last week," she said.

3. "I have been to Zimbabwe," said Evelyn.

4. "Isabell will give you a lift to the airport tomorrow," he said.

5. "We had already eaten before we arrived so we didn't taste the food," said Simon.

6. "I can't come to the party tonight, I have to study," she said.

7. "You mustn't go near that cliff edge, it's dangerous!" said Zoey.

8. "You weren't looking well yesterday," Luke said.

Task 12.2

Transform the following sentences from reported speech into direct speech. Pay attention to the punctuation required when using direct speech.

1. She said that they had paid the bill.

2. Kelly said she was so tired of working every weekend.

3. He said their house had been for sale for six months.

4. Mark said that he had gone surfing the weekend before.

5. Max said he could help us move flats tomorrow.

6. My grandfather said that he had already had a baby by my age.

7. Greg said that Hadey hates going to the beach on weekends.

8. He said that he had loved his trip to Thailand the year before.
