

# REPORTED SPEECH

We use reported speech to tell people what somebody said or thought in the past, or what happened. But be careful! Tenses change only when the time and speaker are different.

TENSE CHART	DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
PRESENT SIMPLE-PAST SIMPLE	I <b>work</b> in Paris	He said he <b>worked</b> in Paris
PRESENT CONTINUOUS-PAST CONT.	I <b>am working</b>	He said he <b>was working</b>
PAST SIMPLE-PAST PERFECT	I <b>worked</b>	He said he <b>had worked</b> .
PAST CONTINUOUS-PAST PERFECT CONT	I <b>was working</b>	He said he <b>had been working</b>
PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE-PAST PERFECT	I <b>have worked</b>	He said he <b>had worked</b>
PRESENT PERF. CONT-PAST PERFECT CONT	I <b>have been working</b>	He said he <b>had been working</b>
PAST PERFECT-NO CHANGE	I <b>had worked</b>	He said he <b>had worked</b>
PAST PERFECT CONT-NO CHANGE	I <b>had been working</b>	He said he <b>had been working</b>

OTHER VERB FORMS	TIME REFERENCES	
WILL-WOULD	DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
I <b>will</b> work	-He said he <b>would</b> work.	Then
CAN-COULD		That day
I <b>can</b> sing	-He said he <b>could</b> sing.	There
MUST-HAD TO		That
I <b>must</b> work	-He said he <b>had to</b> work.	That week
MAY-MIGHT		That week
May I help you?	-He asked if he <b>might</b> help me.	The following/next day
SHALL-SHOULD		The following/next week
What <b>shall</b> I do?	-He asked what he <b>should</b> do.	The previous day
PRONOUNS SOMETIMES CHANGE		The day before
BE CAREFUL!		Previously/before
Remember, pronouns sometimes change.		Two days previously/before
Study these examples:		That night
-Don't tell <b>him</b> -he said.		The previous Saturday
He asked me not to tell <b>him</b> . (no change)		The Saturday before
-'I like <b>you</b> ' -Mary told me.		The following Saturday
Mary told me that she liked <b>me</b> . (change)		The next Saturday
		The Saturday after
		That Saturday



## Reported Commands and Requests

Direct speech: "Open the door!"

Reported speech: He ordered me to open the door.

Direct speech: "Don't answer the phone."

Reported speech: She told me not to answer the phone.

I. Change the time reference. Sometimes more than one answer is correct.

1-Sally is leaving **today**.

He said Sally was leaving \_\_\_\_\_

2-He visited London **last week**.

He said he had visited London \_\_\_\_\_

3-We had an argument **last night**.

He said they'd had an argument \_\_\_\_\_

4-I'm not eating **now**.

He said he wasn't eating \_\_\_\_\_

5-Jimmy is coming **next week**.

He said Jimmy was coming \_\_\_\_\_

6-I forgot my key **yesterday**.

He said he'd forgotten his key \_\_\_\_\_

7-I'll call you **tomorrow**.

He said he would call me \_\_\_\_\_

8-I don't live **here** anymore.

He said he didn't live \_\_\_\_\_ anymore.

9-I'm meeting Phil **tonight**.

She said she was meeting Phil \_\_\_\_\_

II. Put the sentences into reported speech.

1. She told him, "Shut the door!"

She told him \_\_\_\_\_

2. He said, "I am going home now."

He said (that) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sam asked her, "Have you got 20 pounds?"

Sam asked her \_\_\_\_\_

4. He wanted to know, "Which picture is the most famous one?"

He wanted to know \_\_\_\_\_

5. She said, "I was biking yesterday."

She said (that) \_\_\_\_\_

6. He was told, "Fill in the form!"

He was told \_\_\_\_\_

7. She said, "I am doing my homework."

She said (that) \_\_\_\_\_

8. They asked me, "Did Paul lose the match?"

They asked me \_\_\_\_\_

9. He told her, "Don't call me before 7 o'clock!"

He told her \_\_\_\_\_

10. Mother said to me, "I will buy that book for you."

Mother said to me (that) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Cathy asked me, "Is the movie interesting or boring?"

Cathy asked me \_\_\_\_\_

12. She said to him, "I have invited you to my party."

She said to him (that) \_\_\_\_\_

13. They wanted to know, "When is your birthday?"

They wanted to know \_\_\_\_\_

14. Susan said, "I like classical music."

Susan said (that) \_\_\_\_\_

15. She asked me, "Where did you meet her?"

She asked me \_\_\_\_\_