

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 work in Paris	He said he worked in Paris
PRESENT CONTINUOUS-PAST CONT.	I am working	He said he was working
PAST SIMPLE-PAST PERFECT	I worked	He said he had worked .
PAST CONTINUOUS-PAST PERFECT CONT	I was working	He said he had been working
PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE-PAST PERFECT	I have worked	He said he had worked
PRESENT PERF. CONT-PAST PERFECT CONT	I have been working	He said he had been working
PAST PERFECT-NO CHANGE	I had worked	He said he had worked
PAST PERFECT CONT-NO CHANGE	I had been working	He said he had been working

OTHER VERB FORMS

WILL-WOULD

I **will** work -He said he **would** work.

CAN-COULD

I **can** sing -He said he **could** sing.

MUST-HAD TO

I **must** work -He said he **had to** work.

MAY-MIGHT

May I help you? -He asked if he **might** help me.

SHALL-SHOULD

What **shall** I do? -He asked what he **should** do.

PRONOUNS SOMETIMES CHANGE

BE CAREFUL!

Remember, pronouns sometimes change.

Study these examples:

-Don't tell **him** -he said.

He asked me not to tell **him**. (no change)

-I like **you** -Mary told me.

Mary told me that she liked **me**. (change)

TIME REFERENCES

DIRECT SPEECH INDIRECT SPEECH

Now

Then

Today

That day

Here

There

This

That

This week

That week

Tomorrow

The following/next day

Next week

The following/next week

Yesterday

The previous day

The day before

Ago

Previously/before

Two days ago

Two days previously/before

Tonight

That night

Last Saturday

The previous Saturday

The Saturday before

Next Saturday

The following Saturday

The next Saturday

The Saturday after

That Saturday



TELL

TELL + PERSONAL OBJECT

We **tell** somebody

-Tina told **me** to phone her.

-My sister told **us** not to wake her up in the morning.

SAY

SAY + TO + OBJECT

-He never **said** that **to me**.

TO REPORT

-He **said** he was exhausted

-Tom **said** he had done it.

ASK

OBJECT + INFINITIVE

TO REQUEST

-He asked **me to** translate it.

TO QUESTION

Ask **her** if she likes tea.

EXERCISE 1 Rewrite the sentences in reported speech



- 1-He was studying yesterday. She said _____
- 2-I will go to the party. He told me _____
- 3-Mary can't stand mean people. He said _____
- 4-I must call my sister tomorrow. He said _____
- 5-I don't like coffee. She told me _____
- 6-Please, do me a favour. She asked _____
- 7-What shall I do about it? He asked _____
- 8-I have forgotten his number. She said _____
- 9-May I sit here? She asked if _____
- 10-I have been waiting for ages. She said _____
- 11-Tim works in an office. He told me _____
- 12-I have been to Paris twice. She said _____
- 13-My husband is in Poland. She told me _____
- 14-I won't do the shopping tomorrow. He said _____
- 15-Neil has already seen this film. She said _____
- 16-Gloria is sitting in her room now. He said _____
- 17-I don't go to parties. She told _____
- 18-I have been working in the garden. She said _____

EXERCISE 2 Choose the correct option.

When I **saw/seen** Mary at the office **this/that** morning, she wasn't looking very well. In fact she **had looked/looked** a bit tired. I **tell/asked** her what the matter **is/was** with her but she wouldn't **tell/say** me. I **wanted/had been wanting** to know what was going on so I **ask/asked** Phil but he **didn't/wasn't** know, either. Two hours later, at about ten o'clock, we **met/were meeting** at the canteen to have a cup of coffee. But Mary **didn't/wasn't** order anything to drink. I knew she loved coffee so that was quite strange. When I asked her why she **wasn't/didn't** want anything to drink she said she **didn't have/wasn't having** her wallet. Her husband **had been taking/had taken** it. I **said/asked** her how she **was coming/had come** to work and she said that as she didn't have any money at all she **come/came** on foot. So that's why she **is/was** so tired! She lived in a nearby town which was ten kilometers away! No wonder why she **is/was** exhausted!

EXERCISE 3 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 _____