

REPORTED SPEECH

We use reported speech to tell people what somebody said in the past.

TENSE CHART	DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
Present Simple → Past simple	I live in the Usa.	He said he lived in the Usa.
Present continuous → Past continuous.	I am walking .	He said he was walking .
Past simple → Past perfect	I cooked pizza .	He said he had cooked pizza .
Past continuous → Past perfect continuous.	I was watching TV .	He said he had been watching TV .
Present perfect → Past perfect	I have worked .	He said he had worked .
Present perfect cont → Past perfect continuous	I have been studying .	He said he had been studying .
Past perfect -No change	I had washed the car .	He said he had washed the car .
Past perfect cont → No change	I had been sleeping .	He said he had been sleeping .

Modal verbs

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.

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 Saturday after

Careful → tell and say

TELL + somebody

-Tina told **me** to phone her

-My sister told **us** to go with her.

SAY (that) clause / to sb

-He **said (that)** he was exhausted



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 _____