

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

Now

Today

Here

This

This week

Tomorrow

Next week

Yesterday

Ago

Two days ago

Tonight

Last Saturday

Next Saturday

INDIRECT SPEECH

Then

That day

There

That

That week

The following/next day

The following/next week

The previous day

The day before

Previously/before

Two days previously/before

That night

The previous Saturday

The Saturday before

The following Saturday

The Saturday after

Careful → tell and say

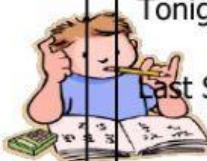
TELL + somebody

-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 _____