REPORTED SPEECH

We use reported speech to tell people what somebody said or though 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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