

Reported Statements

Turn from *direct* into *reported* speech.

- 1 'I can't find my bag,' she said.
.....
She said (that) she couldn't find her bag.
- 2 'They are working in the garden,' he said.
.....
- 3 'We got married six months ago,' she said to us.
.....
- 4 'I'll go shopping tomorrow,' he said.
.....
- 5 'I bought a new car last week,' he said.
.....
- 6 'We aren't doing anything next week,' they said.
.....
- 7 'I can't go out tonight,' she said to me.
.....
- 8 'I forgot to pay the bill,' he said.
.....
- 9 'We've brought you a present,' she said to me.
.....
- 10 'I'll phone you tomorrow,' she said to Peter.
.....



COME IN
ENGLISH

Direct Speech

Present Simple

'I **want** to find a better job,' he said.

Present Continuous

'They're **playing** table tennis,' he said.

Present Perfect

'I've **ordered** a new fridge,' she said.

Past Simple

'Jack **left** the country,' they said.

Future (will)

'I'll **send** you a letter,' he said.

Reported Speech

Past Simple

He said he **wanted** to find a better job.

Past Continuous

He said they **were playing** table tennis.

Past Perfect

She said she **had ordered** a new fridge.

Past Perfect

They said Jack **had left** the country.

Conditional (would)

He said he **would send** me a letter.

In which of the following sentences do the tenses not change? Why? Then, turn the following statements from direct into reported speech.

Reported Statements



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- 1 'I'll paint the house next week,' he says.
Tenses do not change because the introductory verb is in the present simple. He says (that) he will paint the house.
- 2 'I've put the washing in the washing-machine,' Rose said.
.....
- 3 'A giraffe is bigger than a mouse,' he said.
.....
- 4 'We haven't seen Tom for two weeks,' she said.
.....
- 5 'I haven't phoned my uncle since last month,' she says.
.....
- 6 'Birds can fly,' the student said.
.....
- 7 'He's studying for an exam now,' she said.
.....
- 8 'Leaves fall from the trees in autumn,' he said.
.....
- 9 'We visited the circus last weekend,' they said.
.....
- 10 'She dropped the vase on the floor,' Tony said.
.....
- 11 'He took the money to the bank this morning,' she said.
.....
- 12 'The Earth moves round the sun,' the teacher said.
.....

◆ When the introductory verb is in the present, future or present perfect simple or when the sentence expresses something which is always true (general truth), there are no changes in the verb tenses in reported speech.

Direct speech: She says, 'I don't like him.'

Reported speech: She **says** (that) she **doesn't like** him.

'It is cold in the Arctic,' said the teacher.

The teacher said (that) it **is** cold in the Arctic.

◆ The past continuous, past perfect simple and past perfect continuous do not change in reported speech.

Direct speech: 'I **was watching** TV while she **was cooking**,' he said.

Reported speech: He said (that) he **was watching** TV while she **was cooking**.

◆ Certain modal verbs do not change in reported speech. These are **would, could, might, should** and **ought to**.

Direct speech: 'I **could** run fast when I was young,' Tom said.

Reported speech: Tom said (that) he **could** run fast when he was young.