

REPORTED SPEECH

4 A Complete the table to show how tenses change in reported speech.

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
"I ¹ _____ across America ..."	He said he was traveling across America ...
"I ² _____ use public transportation wherever possible."	He said he would use public transportation wherever possible.
"My heavily pregnant wife, Bee, ³ _____ two miles to hospital."	He said that his wife had walked to the hospital.
"I think if we can solve it here, ..."	He said he ⁴ _____ if they could solve it there , ...
"I ⁵ _____ a new idea."	He said he'd had a new idea.
"I ⁶ _____ hoped our efforts would demonstrate ..."	He said he had hoped their efforts would demonstrate ...
"Do you have an idea ...?"	He asked if anyone ⁷ _____ an idea ...
"Each American ⁸ _____ responsible for 20 tons of CO ₂ emissions."	He said each American is responsible for 20 tons of CO ₂ emissions.

B Check your answers using the article in Exercise 2B.

C Look at the table again. Match each sentence to one of the rules.

RULES

- 1 When we report speech, we often move the tenses back (backshift), e.g., present simple → past simple, present continuous → past continuous, present perfect → past perfect, *will* → *would*.
- 2 If what the person says is still true, we can keep the tenses the same, e.g., "It's the 16th." → She said it's the 16th.
- 3 We may also need to change pronouns and time references, e.g., "I'll see you tomorrow." → He said he would see her the next day.
- 4 In reported questions, the word order is the same as that for statements.

▶ page 146 **LANGUAGEBANK**

5 A Complete the sentences by adding one word.

- 1 We changed the light bulbs in our house. (Justin)
He said they had changed the light bulbs in their house.
- 2 I have a new idea. (Justin to his wife)
He said he _____ a new idea.
- 3 We're going to live a more ethical lifestyle. (Justin to Bee)
They said that _____ were going to live a more ethical lifestyle.
- 4 I'm going to take a taxi to the hospital. (Bee to Justin)
She said she _____ going to take a taxi to the hospital.
- 5 We're hot. (children to parents)
The children said _____ were hot.
- 6 We've achieved a lot. (Justin and Bee)
They said they _____ achieved a lot.
- 7 I didn't eat meat for a month. (Justin)
Justin said he _____ eaten meat for a month.

B WEAK FORMS: auxiliary verbs Listen to check your answers.

