

Grammar: Reported Speech

!! When the reporting verb is in **the present** (says, asks, thinks, believe...), **“NO CHANGES”** are introduced into the **TENSE** of the indirect statement.

Example: “Education **played** an important role in my life”, he **says**. → He **says** that education **played** an important role in **his** life.

▪ When the reporting verb is **in the past** (said, believed, told...), **“CHANGES”** are introduced into the **TENSE** in the indirect statement.

| DIRECT SPEECH | | STATEMENTS | | REPORTED SPEECH |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Present simple “I am a student”, He said. | | | | Past simple He said (that) he was a student. |
| Present continuous “ I am coming ”, She said. | → | | | Past continuous She told me she was coming |
| Past simple “Jack broke his leg yesterday ”, | → | | | Past perfect He said that Jack had broken his leg the day before . |
| Present perfect “I haven’t seen the film yet”. | → | | | Past perfect He said that he hadn’t seen the film yet. |
| Past continuous “She was trying to be humorous”. | → | | | Past perfect continuous He told me that she had been trying to be humorous |
| Future: “Will” “I will win this game”, He told me. | → | | | ‘Would’ He told me that he would win that game. |
| Future: “be going to” “I am going to visit my grandmother” | → | | | Was/ were going to She said that she was going to visit her grandmother. |
| MODALS | | Can : “I can swim like a fish” he said. | → | Could : He said that he could swim like a fish |
| | | May | → | Might |
| | | Must | → | Had to |
| | | Have to | → | Had to |
| | | Should/ Could/ might/had to | → | Should/Could/might/had to *NO CHANGE |

| Pronouns Changes | I | → | he / she | You | → | I/We/he/she | |
|------------------|---|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| | | my | → | his /her | Your | → | My/his/her/our/their |
| | | we | → | they | Mine | → | His/her |

| Time and Place words Changes | now | → | then | here | → | there | |
|------------------------------|-----|------------------|------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------|----------------|
| | | this | → | that | today | → | that day |
| | | these | → | those | yesterday | → | the day before |
| | | tonight | → | that night | tomorrow | → | the next day |
| | | next week | → | the following week | ago | → | before |
| | | last year | → | the year before/ the previous year | | | |

| Commands, Advice, Request, Warning etc. | | |
|---|--|--|
| DIRECT SPEECH | REPORTED SPEECH | |
| Command (order) | “Open the door!” his father ordered him. | His father ordered him to open the door. |
| Advice | “You should give up smoking”, he advised me. | He advised me to give up smoking. |
| Request | “ Please , send me some money”, the lady asked us. | The lady asked us to send her some money. |
| Warning | “ Don’t tell anyone this secret!”, She warned me. | She warned me not to tell anyone that secret. |
| Apology | “I can’t attend the wedding. I am sorry! ”. He said. → | ✓ He apologized for not being able to attend the wedding. (present or future) |
| | “I couldn’t attend your wedding. I am sorry! ”. He said. → | ✓ He apologized for not attending my wedding. (in the past) |
| Promise | “I’ll send you my address”. She promised . | She promised to send me her address. |

| Questions | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| DIRECT SPEECH | REPORTED SPEECH | |
| Yes or No Questions | “ Are you a student?”, He asked me. | He asked me If I was a student. |
| | “Do you live here? ”, she wanted to know . | She wanted to know If I lived there . |
| Wh- Questions | “ Where does she live? The old man wanted to know .” | The old man wanted to know where she lived . |
| | “ Why was the girl crying? ”, the woman wondered . | The woman wondered why the girl had been crying . |
| | “ When are you leaving? ”, she asked me. | She asked me when I was leaving . |
| Modals | “ Can you swim now? ”, He wanted to know. | He wanted to know If I could swim then . |
| | “ Will you come tomorrow? ”, She asked me. | She asked me If I would come the following/next day . |

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