



## Reported Speech (Indirect Speech)

1. Introductory clause in the present tense (e.g. he says):

- No backshift of tenses
- Personal pronouns must be changed ( I → ® he/she etc.)
- Expressions of time and place are not changed

Example: Peter says, "I want to talk to Mary tomorrow."

® Peter says that he wants to talk to Mary tomorrow.

2. Introductory clause in the past tense (e.g. he said):

- Backshift of tenses
- Personal pronouns must be changed ( I ® he/she etc.)
- Expressions of time and place are often changed

Example: My father said, "I'm sure I saw you here last week."

® My father said that he was sure that he had seen him there the week before.

Direct Speech	® Reported Speech
Simple present	Simple Past
<i>'I never <u>eat</u> meat,' he said</i>	<i>He explained that he never <u>ate</u> meat</i>
Present Continuous	Past Continuous
<i>'I <u>am</u> working,' he said</i>	<i>He said that he <u>was</u> working.</i>
Present Perfect	Past Perfect
<i>'I <u>have</u> found a flat,' he said</i>	<i>He said that he <u>had</u> found a flat</i>
Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
<i>He said 'I <u>have</u> been sleeping'</i>	<i>He said that he <u>had</u> been sleeping</i>
Simple Past	Past Perfect
<i>'I <u>took</u> it home,' she said</i>	<i>She said she <u>had</u> taken it home</i>
Will	Would
<i>He said, 'I <u>will</u> return'</i>	<i>He said that he <u>would</u> return</i>
<i>Time &amp; space</i>	
tomorrow	the next day / the following day
at the moment	at that moment
now	then
today	that day
two days ago	two days before
next year	the next year / the following year
last Friday	the Friday before
in this country	in that country
here	there

!! Expressions like today, this month, next year don't have to be changed, if the report is given before that day, month, year etc. is over.

!! Always think about the logic of the situation. For ex. : the simple present can remain unchanged in reported speech to show that something is always the case: John said, "School with us starts at 8.10." He told me that school with them starts at 8.10.

The same rules apply to questions.

"Did Marama's horse win a prize?" Owen asked.

® Owen asked whether Marama's horse had won a prize. (or not)

"Why won't you marry me?" asked Donald.

® Donald asked her why she wouldn't marry him.

!! Mind the word order:

- in direct questions auxiliary/subject/main verb : Can I go out?
- in reported questions subject/(auxiliary)/main verb : if I can go out

## Telling a story or recounting events:

"What shall we do?" asked Bev.

"Don't worry, Bev," said Duncan, "I've got a plan."

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"First of all, I would like to thank everybody who helped with the fair\*. The results were very good, and we will now be able to buy two more computers."

\*in this case = kermesse

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## Report the following sentences using the introductory verbs in the box.

1. "No, I won't come to France with you. Jenny!" said Roy.
2. "You ought to see a doctor about your eyes," Sally said to her mother.
3. "If you miss training again, I'll drop you from the team!" said the coach to Bob.
4. "Hello! Do come in! What a beautiful suit!" said Sandra
5. "Sorry for not phoning to confirm your flight, Mr. Jones," said the secretary.
6. "Shall we take a long walk along the river-side" said Mary
7. "It wasn't me who spilt coffee on the tablecloth," said Greg.
8. "I'll carry the bag for you," said Beth
9. "Hello nice to meet you, my name is Carrie, come in and make yourself at home."
10. "Yes, that painting is lovely," said Erica.
11. "You liar!" said Jimmy
12. "What about going to the opera?", she said.
13. "No, I'm going to pay for the ticket", said Adam.
14. "Would you like a drink, Ada?", said Daphne.
15. "My damned computer isn't working!" , said Tom.
16. "I'm sorry, Charles - I didn't mean to upset you", said Anthea.
17. "You'd better go to the police, Arthur", said Nick.
18. "O.K. I did steal the watch!", David said to Kojak.
19. "Remember, children, that the last bus leaves at 10.30", said the teacher
20. "Do not feed the animals!" the zookeeper said severely to the visitors.



Where did he go ?



Where did he go ?

### Useful introductory verbs:

threaten / suggest / urge / deny  
/ offer / refuse / remark / agree  
/ advise / apologise / add /  
insist / suggest / warn / admit /  
inform / offered / remind /  
complain / announce / promise /  
explain / admit / ask / wonder /  
greet / welcome / refuse /  
introduce / call.