

Indirect speech

Statements

Present Simple, Present
Continuous, Present Perfect, Past Tense
Will(future)

DIRECT SPEECH

When you want to say what another person said before, you can use that person's own words:

✓ Tom: "It's cold now".

✓ Tom said: "It's cold now".

INDIRECT SPEECH

Or you can use indirect speech "reporting" what the other person said:

- ✓ Tom: "It's cold now".
- ✓ Tom said that it was cold.

TELL OR SAY?

We use **tell** if we want to mention the hearer, and this verb always needs an **Indirect Object**.

He told her that he couldn't go.

TELL OR SAY?

We use **say** when we do not mention the hearer:

He said he wouldn't go.

We can mention the hearer adding "to":

He said to her that...

TENSE CHANGES

Present Simple ⇨ Past Simple
He is tired ⇨ *He was tired*

Present perfect ⇨ Past Perfect
He has eaten ⇨ He had eaten

Past Tense  Past Perfect
He lived in Paris He had lived in Paris

TENSE CHANGES

present continuous ⇨ past continuous

He is playing ⇨ *He was playing*

Future simple ⇨ Conditional

He will go ⇨ *He would go*

present continuous ⇔ past continuous

1. She is dancing now. She said that.....
2. They are swimming in the river.
3. They are cooking breakfast.
4. My father is watching TV.
5. They are listening to music.
6. The traffic is making too much noise.
7. They are coming to dinner.

Present Simple ⇒ Past Simple

1. You know the answer. He said that
2. He loves her.
3. The park closes at dusk.
4. She dances in competitions.
5. He remember the adress.
6. She agrees with you
7. Tom looks very well.

Present Perfect ⇒ Past Perfect

1. They have never eaten snails.They said that
2. They have repaired the road
3. She has made the coffee.
4. He has driven a new car.
5. They have spent all her money.
6. He has paid the bill.
7. He has written the novel.

Past Tense



Past Perfect

1. He had a bath.
2. He went ot Australia.
3. They bought a new house on the island.
4. He was busy.
5. This painting belonged to my grandfather.
6. She ate only carrot and salad.
7. She followed him everywhere.

Future simple ⇒ Conditional (would)

1. They will come to our party.
2. She will do the washing-up.
3. They will lend me some money.
4. Martin will take a few photos.
5. Tina will marry John next month.
6. Tom will pass the exam.
7. Gloria won't buy a new leather jacket.

CHANGES

When we report someone's words, some changes take place:

Person

Time/place

Verbs tenses

CHANGES of PERSON

I	⇒	he/she
my	⇒	his/her
we	⇒	they
ours	⇒	theirs

CHANGES of PLACE

here	⇒	there
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CHANGES of TIME

now	⇒	then
today	⇒	that day
yesterday	⇒	the day before the previous day
tomorrow	⇒	the next day the following day

CHANGES of TIME

this week ⇨ that week

last week ⇨ the previous week

a year ago ⇨ the year before

Certain words change as follows:

Direct Speech.	Reported Speech.
Here	There
This	That
These	Those
Now	Then
Today	That day
Tonight	That night
Tomorrow	The next day/ the following day
Yesterday	The day before
Next week	The following week
Last week	The week before
Ago	Before

When the reporting verb is in the Past the verb tenses change as follow:

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Present Simple (he speaks)	Past Simple (he spoke)
Present Contin. (he is speaking)	Past Contin. (he was speaking)
Past Simple (he spoke)	Past Perfect (he had spoken)
Present Perfect (he has spoken)	Past Perfect (he had spoken)
Future (shall/will)	Conditional (should/would)

backshift

Rewrite the sentences in reported speech. Change pronouns and time expressions where necessary.

1. She said, "I am reading." → She said that
2. They said, "We are busy." → They said that
3. He said, "I know a better restaurant." → He said that
4. She said, "I woke up early." → She said that
5. He said, "I will ring her." → He said that
6. They said, "We have just arrived." → They said that
7. He said, "I will clean the car." → He said that
8. She said, "I did not say that." → She said that
9. She said, "I don't know where my shoes are." → She said that
10. He said: "I won't tell anyone." → He said that

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