

Università di Cagliari



Corso di Laurea in Economia e Gestione Aziendale

Corso di Laurea in Economia e Finanza

Lingua Inglese

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REPORTED SPEECH

- **Use: To say/report what another person said**
- We use a 'reporting verb like 'say' or 'tell'. If it's a present tense, it's easy. We just put 'she says' and then the sentence:
 - *Direct speech: I like ice cream.*
 - *Reported speech: She **says** (that) she **likes** ice cream.*
- In indirect speech, we often use a tense which is “further back” in the past than the tense originally used.
 - **BACKSHIFT**
 - We also probably may need to change other words that were used, for example pronouns.
 - The 'person' from 'I' to 'she', for example. We also may need to change words like 'my' and 'your'.
- **But**, if the reporting verb is in the past tense, then usually we change the tenses in the reported speech:
 - Direct speech: *I like ice cream.*
 - Reported speech: *She **said** (that) she **liked** ice cream.*

REPORTED SPEECH

- **Occasionally, we don't need to change the present tense into the past if the information in direct speech is still true (but this is only for things which are general facts, and even then usually we like to change the tense):**
 - Direct speech: *The sky is blue.*
 - Reported speech: *She said (that) the sky **is/was** blue.*
- 1) "He works in a bank."
 - 2) "We went out last night."
 - 3) "I'm coming!"
 - 4) "I was waiting for the bus when he arrived."
 - 5) "I'd never been there before."
- 1) [She said that he worked in a bank.] 2) [She said that they had gone out last night.]
 - 3) [She said that she was coming.] 4) [She said that she had been waiting for the bus when he arrived.] 5) [She said that she had never been there before.]

REPORTED SPEECH

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Present simple He said, "I want to watch a film"	Past Simple He said (that) he wanted to watch a film
Present Continuous He said, "Jane is sleeping."	Past Continuous He said (that) Jane was sleeping.
Present Perfect She said, "I have bought a new dress."	Past Perfect She said (that) she had bought a new dress.
Past Simple Alex said, "I finished my homework."	Past Perfect Alex said (that) he had finished his homework.
Will She said, "I will always love Tom."	Would She said (that) she would always love Tom.
Can Tom said, "I can carry 50 kg."	Could Tom said (that) he could carry 50 kg.
May Ben said "It may rain."	Might Ben said (that) it might rain.
Must He said, "Everybody must obey the rules."	Had to He said (that) everybody had to obey the rules.
Have to She said, "I have to go home."	Had to She said (that) she had to go home.

REPORTED SPEECH

Tense

Direct Speech

Reported Speech

present simple

I like ice cream

She said (that) she liked ice cream.

present continuous

I am living in London

She said (that) she was living in London.

past simple

I bought a car

She said (that) she had bought a car OR She said (that) she bought a car.

past continuous

I was walking along the street

She said (that) she had been walking along the street.

present perfect

I haven't seen Julie

She said (that) she hadn't seen Julie.

past perfect*

I had taken English lessons before

She said (that) she had taken English lessons before.

will

I'll see you later

She said (that) she would see
you later.

REPORTED SPEECH

Tense

would*

I would help, but..”

Direct Speech

Reported Speech

She said (that) she would help but...

can

I can speak perfect English

She said (that) she could speak perfect English.

could*

I could swim when I was four

She said (that) she could swim when she was four.

shall

I shall come later

She said (that) she would come later.

should*

I should call my mother

She said (that) she should call her mother

might*

I might be late

She said (that) she might be late

must

I must study at the weekend

She said (that) she must study at the weekend OR She said she had to study at the weekend

REPORTED SPEECH

PLACE & TIME

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
today	that day
now	then / at the moment
yesterday	the day before
... days ago	... days before
last week	the week before
next year	the following year
tomorrow	the next day the following day
here	there
this	that
these	those
ago	previously / before
tonight	that night

TENSE CHANGE

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
will	would
can	could
must / have to	must or had to
may / might	might
should	should
ought to	ought to

REPORTED SPEECH

Reported Speech: Verb Changes

CHANGE

Present simple > Past simple
Present continuous > Past continuous
Present perfect > Past perfect
Past simple > Past perfect
can > could
will > would
must > had to
may > might

NO CHANGE

Past continuous
Past perfect
might
could
should
mustn't

REPORTED SPEECH

- 1. “He works in a bank” She said

 - 2. “We went out last night” She told me

 - 3. “I’m coming!” She said

 - 4. “I was waiting for the bus when he arrived” She told me

 - 5. “I’d never been there before” She said

- 1. She said (that) he worked in a bank.
 - 2. She told me (that) they went (had gone) out last night (the night before).
 - 3. She said (that) she was coming.
 - 4. She told me (that) she had been waiting for the bus when he arrived.
 - 5. She said (that) she had never been there before.

REPORTED SPEECH

- 6. “I didn’t go to the party” She told me

- 7. “Lucy’ll come later” She said

- 8. “He hasn’t eaten breakfast” She told me

- 9. “I can help you tomorrow” She said

- 10. “You should go to bed early” She told me

- 6. She told me (that) she didn't go (hadn't gone) to the party.
- 7. She said (that) Lucy would come later.
- 8. She told me (that) he hadn't eaten breakfast.
- 9. She said (that) she could help me tomorrow.
- 10. She told me (that) I should go to bed early.

REPORTED SPEECH

- 11. “I don’t like chocolate” She told me

- 12. “I won’t see you tomorrow” She said

- 13. “She’s living in Paris for a few months” She said

- 14. “I visited my parents at the weekend” She told me

- 15. “She hasn’t eaten sushi before” She said

- 11. She told me (that) she didn't like chocolate.
- 12. She said (that) she wouldn't see me tomorrow.
- 13. She said (that) she was living in Paris for a few months.
- 14. She told me (that) she visited (had visited) her parents at the weekend.
- 15. She said (that) she hadn't eaten sushi before.

REPORTED SPEECH

- 16. "I hadn't travelled by underground before I came to London" She said

- 17. "They would help if they could" She said

- 18. "I'll do the washing-up later" She told me

- 19. "He could read when he was three" She said

- 20. "I was sleeping when Julie called" She said

- 16. She said (that) she hadn't travelled by underground before she came to London.
- 17. She said (that) they would help if they could.
- 18. She told me (that) she would do the washing-up later.
- 19. She said (that) he could read when he was three.
- 20. She said (that) she had been sleeping when Julie called.