

Reported Speech

Reported Speech

Direct speech

Direct speech is the exact words someone said. To show the direct speech we put the words said in quotation marks.

"I'll go to London," she said.

Reported speech

Reported speech is the exact meaning of what someone said but not the exact words. We do not use quotation marks in Reported speech.

She said she would go to London.

When the reporting verb is in the past, the verb tenses change as follows:

	Simple	Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
Present	V/Vs ↓	am/is/are V _{ing} ↓	have/has V ₃ ↓	have/has been V _{ing} ↓
Past	V ₂	was/were V _{ing}	had V ₃	had been V _{ing}
Future	will V ↓	will be V _{ing} ↓	will have V ₃ ↓	will have been V _{ing} ↓
Future-i n-the-pa st	would V	would be V _{ing}	would have V ₃	would have been V _{ing}

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Statements

He said, "I'll lend you my laptop."

*He said (**that**) he would lend me his laptop.*

Wh-Questions

He said, "Where did they stay?"

He wanted to know/wondered where they had stayed.

Yes-No Questions

He said to me, "Have you got a bike?"

*He asked me **if / whether** I had a bike.*

Commands/Requests/Suggestions

He said to me, "Come with me. "

He said to me, "Don't lie to me. "

He said "Let's go out. "

*He asked me **to go** with him.*

*He told me **not to lie** to him.*

He suggested going out.

Time words change as follows depending on the time reference:

Direct speech

- tonight, today, this week / month / year
- now
- yesterday, last night / week / month / year
- tomorrow, next week / month / year
- two days / months / years, etc. ago
- this / these
- here
- come

Reported speech

- that night, that day, that week / month / year
- then, at that time, immediately
- the day before, the previous night / week / month / year
- the following day / the day after, the following / next week / month / year
- two days / months / years, etc. before
- that / those
- there
- go