Reported speech

Nikita said "I like art very much."

Nikita said he liked art very much.

We often move the tense of a verb one step back in reported speech because the original words happened before the reported speech:

original words	reported speech
'I'm sorry. I can't do that.'	She said she couldn't.
present tense	past tense

Original words	Reported speech
Present simple / present continuous: 'I'm going to the supermarket to buy food for the party.'	Past simple / past continuous: She said she was going shopping.
Past simple / past continuous: 'He went in to work late yesterday.'	Past perfect simple / continuous: She told me he'd gone into work late yesterday.
Present perfect simple / continuous: 'I've had a terrible cold, but I'm better now.'	Past perfect simple / continuous: She said she'd had a really bad cold.
Past perfect simple / continuous: 'I'd been having loads of trouble with my washing machine so I finally got the plumber in yesterday.'	Past perfect simple / continuous: She told me she'd been having trouble with her washing machine but she's had it fixed now.
Will: 'My mother will water my plants whilst I'm away.'	Would: She told me her mother would look after her plants until she gets back.
Be going to + verb: 'They're going to have a big celebration.'	Was / were going to + verb: She said they were going to have a big party.

In general, the *present* form in direct speech changes to the *past* form in reported speech:

am/is → **was**   do/does → did   will → **would**

are → **were**   have/has → **had**   can → **could**

want/like/know/go etc. → **wanted/liked/knew/went** etc.

direct speech → reported speech

here → there   now → then

this/these → that/those

today → that day

yesterday → the day before/
the previous day

tomorrow → the next/following day

next week/month/year →
the following week/
month/year

last week/month/year →
the previous week/
month/year

three days ago → three days before/
earlier