**Reported Speech (Indirect Speech)**

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| **Direct speech**  | **Reported speech**  |
| She says: "I like tuna fish." | She says that she likes tuna fish.  |
| She said: "I'm visiting Paris next weekend" | She said that she was visiting Paris the following weekend.  |

**A. Reporting Statements**

When transforming statements, check whether you have to change:

* pronouns
* tense
* place and time expression

**1- Pronouns**

In reported speech, you often have to change the pronoun depending on who says what.

Example:

She says, “My dad likes roast chicken.” – She says that her dad likes roast chicken.

**2- Tenses**

* If the sentence starts in the present, there is ***no backshift*** of tenses in reported speech.
* If the sentence starts in the past, there is often ***backshift*** of tenses in reported speech.

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|  | **Direct speech** | **Reported speech** |
| **(no backshift)** | “I **write** poems.” | He ***says*** that he **writes** poems. |
| **(backshift)** | “I **write** poems.” | He ***said*** that he **wrote** poems |

Example:
He said, “I am happy.” – He said that he was happy.

**Examples of the main changes in tense:**

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| **Direct Speech**  | **Reported Speech** |
| **Simple Present**He said: "I **am** happy"  | Simple PastHe said that he **was** happy  |
| **Present Progressive**He said: "I**'m looking** for my keys"  | **Past Progressive**He said that he **was looking** for his keys  |
| **Simple Past**He said: "I **visited** New York last year"  | **Past Perfect Simple**He said that he **had visited** New York the previous year.  |
| **Present Perfect** He said: " I**'ve lived** here for a long time "  | **Past Perfect** He said that he **had lived** there for a long time  |
| **Past Perfect** He said: "They **had finished** the work when I **arrived**"  | **Past Perfect** He said that they **had finished** the work when he **had arrived**"  |
| **Past Progressive**He said: "I **was playing** football when the accident **occurred**"  | **Past Perfect Progressive**He said that **he had been playing** football when the accident **had occurred**  |
| **Present Perfect Progressive**He said:"I **have been playing** football for two hours."  | **Past Perfect Progressive**He said that **he had been playing** football for two hours  |
| **Past Perfect Progressive**He said: "I **had been reading** a newspaper when the light **went off**"  | **Past Perfect Progressive**He said that he **had been reading** a newspaper when the light **had gone off**  |
| **Future Simple (will+verb)**He said: "I **will open** the door."  | **Conditional (would+verb)**He said that **he would open** the door.  |
| **Conditional (would+verb)**He said: "I **would buy** Mercedes if I **were** rich"  | **Conditional (would+verb)**He said that he **would buy** Mercedes if he **had been** rich"  |

The modal verbs *could, should, would, might, needn't, ought to, used to* do not normally change.
Example:
He said, "She might be right." – He said that she might be right.

**Place, demonstratives and time expressions**

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| **Direct Speech**  | **Reported Speech** |
| **Time Expressions**  |
| today | that day |
| now | then |
| 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 |
| **Place** |
| here | there |
| **Demonstratives** |
| this | that |
| these | those |

**Reporting Questions**

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| **Types of questions**  | **Direct speech** | **Reported speech** |
| **With question word (what, why, where, how...)**  | "Why" don’t you speak English?” | He asked me why I didn’t speak English. |
| **Without question word (yes or no questions)**  | “Do you speak English?” | He asked me whether / if I spoke English. |

**Reporting requests / commands**

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| **Direct speech** | **Reported speech** |
| “Nancy,do the exercise.“ | He told Nancy to do the exercise. |
| "Nancy, give me your pen, please."  | He asked Nancy to give him her pen.  |

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| Tenses are not relevant for requests – simply use *to*  / *not to* + verb (infinitive without "to |