

Module 6 - Unit 11

★ Reported Speech (Statements)

In **Direct Speech**, we repeat the exact words that someone said. We usually use the verb **say** and the words of the speaker are put in quotation marks.

Irina said, 'Tina is on the phone.'

In **Reported Speech**, we report the meaning of what someone said, without using their exact words. We use a reporting verb, usually **say** or **tell**, followed by **that** (which can be omitted) and the reported statement.

Irina said that Tina was on the phone.

NOTE

- We use **say** when there is no indirect object.
'I can't fix the car,' he said.
He said that he couldn't fix the car.
- We use **tell** when there is an indirect object.
'I'll be late, Tom,' she said.
She told Tom she would be late.

- When we change a sentence from Direct to Reported Speech, pronouns and possessive adjectives change according to the meaning of the sentence.

'I like your new bike,' said Ian.

Ian said that he liked my new bike.

- When a sentence changes from Direct to Reported Speech, tenses, modals and time expressions change as follows:

Present Simple → Past Simple

Karen said, 'I want to buy a new car.'

Karen said (that) she wanted to buy a new car.

Present Progressive → Past Progressive

Alan said, 'I'm having a shower.'

Alan said he was having a shower.

Past Simple → Past Perfect Simple

Lars said, 'I saw a bear behind the tree.'

Lars said he had seen a bear behind the tree.

Present Perfect Simple → Past Perfect Simple

Tim said, 'I've seen the Loch Ness monster.'

Tim said he had seen the Loch Ness monster.

Present Perfect Progressive → Past Perfect Progressive

Andy said, 'I've been waiting for an hour.'

Andy said he had been waiting for an hour.

will → would

Dan said, 'I'll call you later.'

Dan said he would call me later.

can → could

Mina said, 'I can show you the way.'

Mina said she could show me the way.

Conditional Sentences Type 1 → Conditional Sentences Type 2

Diane said, 'If we take a taxi, we'll get there sooner.'

Diane said if they took a taxi, they would get there sooner.

may → might

Paula said, 'I may go to Brazil.'

Paula said she might go to Brazil.

must → had to

Jim said, 'You must work hard.'

Jim said I had to work hard.

now → then

Mandy said, 'I'll talk to him now!'

Mandy said she would talk to him then.

today, tonight → that day, that night

Tom said, 'We're meeting Tim today.'

Tom said they were meeting Tim that day.

yesterday → the previous day / the day before

Danny said, 'I visited my lawyer yesterday.'

Danny said he had visited his lawyer the previous day.

this morning/year, etc. → that morning/year, etc.

Mark said, 'I haven't eaten anything since this morning.'

Mark said he hadn't eaten anything since that morning.

here → there

Eric said, 'I saw it here.'

Eric said he had seen it there.

tomorrow → the next day / the following day

Sally said, 'I'm flying to Paris tomorrow.'

Sally said she was flying to Paris the following day.

ago → before

Ben said, 'I bought this car two days ago.'

Ben said he had bought that car two days before.

*last week/month, etc. → the previous week/month, etc.
the week/month, etc. before*

Dave said, 'I called Mandy last week.'

Dave said that he had called Mandy the previous week.

next week / month, etc. → the following week / month, etc.

Gary said, 'I'll return the book next week.'

Gary said he would return the book the following week.

NOTE

- These changes cannot be made when the sentence expresses a general truth or the reporting verb is in the Present, Future or Present Perfect Simple.
'I enjoy cooking,' Simon said.
Simon said (that) he enjoys cooking.
'I will move to Dublin next year,' Eric says.
Eric says he will move to Dublin next year.
- The Past Perfect and the verbs *could*, *might*, *should*, *would*, *ought to*, *mustn't* and *used to* do not change in Reported Speech.
- The Past Progressive usually doesn't change but when it does, it changes to Past Perfect Progressive. Past tenses in time clauses do not change.
"I was speaking on the phone when the doorbell rang," she said. → She said (that) she was speaking on the phone when the doorbell rang.
- Conditional Sentences Types 2 and 3 and sentences with *wish* / *if only* do not change in Reported Speech.

★ Reported Commands and Requests

- We commonly use *tell*, *beg*, *command*, *advise*, *warn* or *order* when we report commands and *ask* when we report requests.
- The Imperative changes to full infinitive or *not* + full infinitive.
'Sit down, Rex,' said Dan. → Dan told Rex to sit down.
'Don't tell anyone, please,' Laura said. → Laura asked me not to tell anyone.

NOTE

- When the request is in question form, in Reported Speech it changes to full infinitive.
'Will you open the door, please?' Vicky said.
Vicky asked me to open the door.

★ Special Introductory Verbs

There are a number of special introductory verbs used in Reported Speech.

- **verb + full infinitive** (agree, claim, demand, offer, promise, refuse, threaten, etc.)
'I'll babysit for you,' said Patty.
Patty offered to babysit for me.