

Direct and Indirect Speech

Learn!

We often tell people what other people have said. This is called **Reported Speech**.

Direct Statement	Reported Statement
_____ Peter said, "I love snowboarding!"	simple past Peter said (that) he loved snowboarding.
present continuous Anna said, "I'm washing my hair."	_____ Anna said (that) she was washing her hair.
will ('ll) "I'll tell Amie later," said Jason.	_____ Jason said (that) he'd tell Amie later.
_____ "They can leave a message," said Mary.	could Mary said (that) they could leave a message.
simple past / present perfect "I called you yesterday to ask if you have done the homework," said Corey.	_____ Corey said (that) he had called me yesterday to ask if (that) I had done the homework.

Direct Question	Indirect Question
"Where do you live ?" asked Jennie.	Jennie asked me where I lived .
"Why isn't she coming?" asked Len.	Len asked us why she wasn't coming.
" Did you drive my car?" Sam asked us.	Sam asked if we had driven his car.
" Can I use your MP3 player?" she asked.	She asked me if she could use my MP3 player.

Work it out!

1 Complete the missing lines in the chart with the correct names of tenses.

simple present past continuous past perfect can

2 Look at the examples of reported statements and complete the rules below with words from the box.

- a. Statements are usually reported with the verb _____ and an optional (*that*).
- b. The _____ changes to *Simple Past*.
- c. The *Present Continuous* changes to _____.
- d. *Will ('ll)* changes to _____.
- e. *Can* changes to _____.
- f. The *Simple Past* and *Present Perfect* change to _____.

3 Look at the examples of reported questions and underline the correct options to complete the rule.

- a. We can use the verb *said / ask* to report questions.
- b. Tense change rules are *the same as / different from* the rule for reporting statements.
- c. The word order in a reported question is like a normal statement, with the subject *before / after* the verb.
- d. When we report *Yes/No questions* we use the word *have / if*.

Use!

1 Rewrite each sentence in reported speech, beginning as shown.

- a. "I'm having a party on Saturday," said Mary.
Mary said _____.
- b. "I got up late and I missed the bus," said Tim.
Tim said that he _____.
- c. "Are you staying here all the summer?" Rita's friend asked me.
Rita's friend asked me _____.
- d. "When is your birthday?" I asked Clara.
I asked Clara _____.
- 5. "I won't do it!" said Raul.
Raul said _____.
- 6. "Can you swim?" I asked Jackie.
I asked Jackie _____.

Direct and indirect speech

We use direct speech when we quote the actual words a person said. For example:

Peter said, "It's getting late."

We use quotation marks to repeat the exact words the person said.

We use indirect speech when we report what a person said. For example: *Peter said it was getting late.*

Verb tenses change when transforming direct speech to indirect speech, or vice versa, as follows:

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Simple Present Present Continuous Future (will)	Simple Past Past Continuous would

Task 1: Change these sentences from direct to indirect speech or vice versa.

1. Alan said, "I'm studying hard." Alan said _____ .
2. She told me she was going to Cancún next week. She said, " _____ ."
3. He said, "I'm working very hard." He told me _____ .
4. Susan said, "He doesn't love me." Susan said _____ .
5. Peter said, "They will be here tomorrow." Peter said _____ .
6. The teacher told the students that she would give them new books. The teacher said, " _____ ."

Task 2: Read and report about Brian's vacation plans.

I'm going to go camping at the end of May. I'll go to one of the national parks. I'm going to be away for a week. I only have five days of vacation. I'll probably go hiking and do some fishing. I'm going to take my own tent. I love camping.

Brian said he _____

Direct and indirect speech

What people say directly to each other is called *direct speech*.

Everybody stay calm, please.

When we report what other people say we use *reported speech*.

The assistant told everyone to stay calm.

Changes in Reported Speech		
Present	Past simple	<i>is – was / do – did</i>
Past	Past perfect	<i>was – had been / did – had done</i>
Present perfect	Past perfect	<i>has been – had been / has done – had done</i>
<i>Will</i>	<i>Would</i>	<i>I will – I would</i>
<i>Can</i>	<i>Could</i>	<i>She can – she could</i>

When we change direct speech to reported speech or vice-versa, we have to make changes to the structures. These changes include the use of the verbs *told* and *said* for comments or information. We also change the tenses. Look at this information about some of the tense changes.

Direct speech to indirect speech

Tom: "The movie will start soon."

Tom said the movie would start soon.

Mary: "The movie is terrible."

Mary said the movie was terrible.

Task 1: Match the sentences with its summarized version in reported speech. Then underline the parts that show the tense changes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. "Actually, I have no idea at all where I am." | a. She said she would be back soon. |
| 2. "Anyway, I'll be back in no time." | b. She said she had missed the bus. |
| 3. "The thing is, I know it's silly, but I've missed the bus." | c. She said she was going to be late. |
| 4. "Look, sorry about this, but I'm afraid I'm going to be late." | d. She said she had already called. |
| 5. "I did call you, you know, earlier in the morning." | e. She said she did not know where she was. |
| 6. "Uncle Jerry is coming to dinner on Sunday." | f. She said Uncle Jerry was coming to dinner on Sunday. |

Task 2: Complete the sentences.

1. The assistant said it would only last a few minutes

"It _____ only last a few minutes."

2. "The generator will come on very soon"

She said the generator _____ very soon.

3. My girlfriend said she didn't like the movie.

"I _____ the movie!"