

Verb Tense in Reported Speech

When you report what someone said in the past, you usually shift back a verb tense from the tense the speaker used. These are some examples of verb shifts:

- simple present to simple past
- past to past perfect
- present perfect to past perfect



Quotation	Reported Speech
"I am finishing."	She stated that she was finishing.
"I saw them leave."	Aidan said that he had seen them leave.
"Where have they gone?"	Felicite wondered where they had gone.
"Will you help me?"	I asked Silvio if they would help me.
"I can't remember your name."	Mike said she couldn't remember my name.
"The final test will be next week."	Mr. Park said the final test will be next week.*

*If the reported information is still true, you may use the same tense.

Questions in Reported Speech

Word order: The word order in a reported question is the same as in a statement. The subject comes before the verb.

Question: *Are you ready?*

Statement: *I am ready.*

Question in reported speech: *She wanted to know if I was ready.*

Punctuation: If the sentence is a statement, end it with a period even if it contains a reported question.

- Statement containing a reported question: She asked me what I thought of the book.
- Question containing a reported question: Did she ask what you thought of the book?

