

Reported speech – verb forms

Verb tense	Direct speech	Verb tense	Indirect speech
present simple	'I am exhausted.'	past simple	He said (that) he was exhausted.
present continuous	'I m studying.'	past continuous	She told me (that) she was studying .
past simple	'I loved the concert.'	past perfect	He told me (that) he had loved the concert.
present perfect	'I have never been to Rome.'	past perfect	She said (that) she'd never been to Rome.
will	'I will help you.'	would	He said (that) he would help me.
must	'You must pay attention.'	had to	She told me (that) I had to pay attention.
can	'You can stay with me.'	could	She said (that) I could stay with her.
may	'I may arrive late.'	might	He told me (that) he might arrive late.
could, might, should	'I should help Tom.'	could, might, should	She said (that) she should help Tom.

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Reported speech – expressions

Direct speech	Examples	Indirect speech	Examples
now	'I will do it now .'	then at that moment	He said (that) he would do it then .
today	'I have to do it today.'	that day	She told me (that) she had to do it that day .
tonight	'You should call tonight .'	that night	He told me (that) I should call that night .
last night	'I saw her last night .'	the previous night the night before	She said (that) she'd seen her the night before .
tomorrow	'Call me tomorrow .'	the next day the following day	He told me to call him the next day .
yesterday	'I arrived yesterday .'	the previous day the day before	She told me (that) she'd arrived the day before .
this week	'We can do it this week .'	that week	She said (that) we could do it that week .
next week	'We can do it next week .'	the next week the following week	He told me (that) we could do it the next week .
here	'Tom is here .'	there	She said (that) Tom was there .

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Reported speech – questions

Questions	Direct speech	asked me ...	Indirect speech
question word	' When did they arrive?'	question word + subject + verb	He asked me when they had arrived.
yes/no question	'Did they call?'	if/whether ...	He asked me if/whether they had called.

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