

## ● Reported speech / reported questions / reporting verbs

### Reported speech: tense and modal changes

- We use reported speech when we want to say what someone else said.  
eg *Jason said he was going to buy a new pair of trainers.*
- If the reporting verb is in the past (eg *said*), we usually have to change the tense of what the person actually said.

Direct speech	Reported speech	Example
present simple	past simple	<i>'I <b>need</b> a credit card,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>needed</b> a credit card.</i>
present continuous	past continuous	<i>'I <b>am taking</b> Lizzie shopping,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>was taking</b> Lizzie shopping.</i>
present perfect simple	past perfect simple	<i>'I <b>ve bought</b> Tom a present,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>d bought</b> Tom a present.</i>
present perfect continuous	past perfect continuous	<i>'I <b>ve been thinking</b> about buying a car,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>d been thinking</b> about buying a car.</i>
past simple	past perfect simple	<i>'I <b>spent</b> six euros,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>d spent</b> six euros.</i>
past continuous	past perfect continuous	<i>'I <b>was hoping</b> to find a new top,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>d been hoping</b> to find a new top.</i>
past perfect simple	past perfect simple (no tense change)	<i>'I <b>d looked</b> everywhere for my credit card before I found it,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>d looked</b> everywhere for his credit card before he found it.</i>
past perfect continuous	past perfect continuous (no tense change)	<i>'I <b>d been looking</b> for that book for weeks before I found it,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>d been looking</b> for that book for weeks before he found it.</i>
<i>am/is/are going to</i>	<i>was/were going to</i>	<i>'I <b>am going to</b> go shopping,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>was going to</b> go shopping.</i>
<i>will</i>	<i>would</i>	<i>'I <b>ll need</b> a credit card,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>would</b> need a credit card.</i>
<i>can</i>	<i>could</i>	<i>'I <b>can</b> take Lizzie shopping,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>could</b> take Lizzie shopping.</i>
<i>must / have to</i>	<i>had to</i>	<i>'I <b>must</b> go to the supermarket,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>had to</b> go to the supermarket.</i>
<i>may</i>	<i>might</i>	<i>'I <b>may</b> go shopping later,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he <b>might</b> go shopping later.</i>



- We do not need to make any changes to the verb tense or modal when we are reporting a scientific fact or when something is still true.  
✓ *'Most banks **charge** interest,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said most banks **charge** interest.*

### Reported speech: pronoun and determiner changes

- With reported speech, we also usually have to change some pronouns and determiners. These changes include:

Direct speech	Reported speech	Example
<i>my</i>	<i>his / her</i>	<i>'I've lost <b>my</b> credit card,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he had lost <b>his</b> credit card.</i>
<i>this / that + noun</i>	<i>the / that</i>	<i>'I love <b>this</b> sweater,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he loved <b>the / that</b> sweater.</i>
<i>this / that + verb</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>'<b>This</b> is a lovely sweater,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said <b>it</b> was a lovely sweater.</i>
<i>these / those + noun</i>	<i>the / those</i>	<i>'I love <b>those</b> sweaters,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he loved <b>the / those</b> sweaters.</i>
<i>these / those + verb</i>	<i>they</i>	<i>'<b>These</b> are lovely sweaters,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said <b>they</b> were lovely sweaters.</i>
<i>verb + these / those</i>	<i>them</i>	<i>'I'm going to buy <b>these</b>,' said Tim. ➔ Tim said he was going to buy <b>them</b>.</i>