

# CHANGE OF TENSES AND ITS CONDITION

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## A. SENTENCES WHERE TENSE CHANGES

### Rule trigger

Reporting verb = **past** (said / told / asked)

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### 1) Present Simple → Past Simple

#### Direct:

He said, "I **play** cricket."

#### Indirect:

He said that he **played** cricket.

#### Why:

Present action reported later → time moves back.

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### 2) Present Continuous → Past Continuous

#### Direct:

She said, "I **am reading**."

#### Indirect:

She said that she **was reading**.

#### Why:

Action was happening at that time, but statement is reported later.

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### 3) Present Perfect → Past Perfect

#### Direct:

He said, "I **have finished** my work."

#### Indirect:

He said that he **had finished** his work.

**Why:**

Completed action before reporting time → pushed one step back.

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**4) Present Perfect Continuous → Past Perfect Continuous**

**Direct:**

She said, “I **have been waiting** for two hours.”

**Indirect:**

She said that she **had been waiting** for two hours.

**Why:**

Duration action shifted back in time.

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**5) Past Simple → Past Perfect**

**Direct:**

He said, “I **went** home.”

**Indirect:**

He said that he **had gone** home.

**Why:**

Past action now becomes earlier past.

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**6) Past Continuous → Past Perfect Continuous**

**Direct:**

She said, “I **was cooking**.”

**Indirect:**

She said that she **had been cooking**.

**Why:**

Ongoing past action pushed further back.

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**7) Future Simple → Conditional (will → would)**

**Direct:**

He said, "I **will help** you."

**Indirect:**

He said that he **would help** me.

**Why:**

Future from past viewpoint becomes conditional.

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**8) Future Continuous → Conditional Continuous**

**Direct:**

She said, "I **will be studying**."

**Indirect:**

She said that she **would be studying**.

**Why:**

Future-in-progress seen from past.

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**9) Future Perfect → Conditional Perfect**

**Direct:**

He said, "I **will have finished** the work."

**Indirect:**

He said that he **would have finished** the work.

**Why:**

Future completion shifted to past viewpoint.

**B. SENTENCES WHERE TENSE DOES NOT CHANGE**

These are **valid narrations**, but tense stays same.

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**10) Universal Truth / Fact**

**Direct:**

The teacher said, "The sun **rises** in the east."

**Indirect:**

The teacher said that the sun **rises** in the east.

**Why:**

Truth is permanent. Time shift does not affect facts.

**11) Reporting Verb in Present / Future****Direct:**

He **says**, "I am busy."

**Indirect:**

He says that he **is** busy.

**Why:**

Reporting is happening now → no backward shift.

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#	Direct Speech	Indirect Speech	Why
1	He said, "I <b>am</b> tired."	He said that he <b>was</b> tired.	Present → past
2	She said, "I <b>am reading</b> ."	She said that she <b>was reading</b> .	Pres. cont. → past cont.
3	Ali said, "I <b>have finished</b> ."	Ali said that he <b>had finished</b> .	Pres. perf. → past perf.
4	She said, "I <b>have been waiting</b> ."	She said that she <b>had been waiting</b> .	PPC → PPC (past)
5	He said, "I <b>went</b> home."	He said that he <b>had gone</b> home.	Past → past perfect
6	She said, "I <b>was cooking</b> ."	She said that she <b>had been cooking</b> .	Past cont. → PPC
7	He said, "I <b>will help</b> you."	He said that he <b>would help</b> me.	Will → would
8	She said, "I <b>will be studying</b> ."	She said that she <b>would be studying</b> .	Fut. cont. → cond. cont.
9	He said, "I <b>can</b> do it."	He said that he <b>could</b> do it.	Modal shifts
10	She said, "I <b>may</b> come."	She said that she <b>might</b> come.	Modal shifts

## 2) EXAMPLES — REPORTING VERB IN PRESENT (NO TENSE CHANGE)

#	Direct Speech	Indirect Speech	Why
1	He <b>says</b> , "I <b>am</b> busy."	He says that he <b>is</b> busy.	Reporting now
2	She <b>says</b> , "I <b>am</b> reading."	She says that she <b>is</b> reading.	No backshift
3	Ali <b>says</b> , "I <b>have</b> finished."	Ali says that he <b>has</b> finished.	No time move
4	She <b>says</b> , "I <b>went</b> home."	She says that she <b>went</b> home.	Statement only
5	He <b>says</b> , "I <b>will</b> help you."	He says that he <b>will</b> help me.	Future still future
6	The teacher <b>says</b> , "Work hard."	The teacher says to work hard.	Present reporting
7	She <b>asks</b> , "Where <b>are</b> you going?"	She asks where I <b>am</b> going.	No tense change
8	He <b>tells</b> me, "You <b>are</b> right."	He tells me that I <b>am</b> right.	Listener context
9	Ali <b>says</b> , "We <b>are</b> ready."	Ali says that they <b>are</b> ready.	Present report
10	She <b>says</b> , "I <b>can</b> help."	She says that she <b>can</b> help.	Modal unchanged

### 3) EXAMPLES — UNIVERSAL TRUTH / FACT (NO TENSE CHANGE)

#	Direct Speech	Indirect Speech	Why
1	He said, "The sun <b>rises</b> in the east."	He said that the sun <b>rises</b> in the east.	Universal truth
2	The teacher said, "Water <b>boils</b> at 100°C."	The teacher said that water <b>boils</b> at 100°C.	Scientific fact
3	She said, "Honesty <b>is</b> the best policy."	She said that honesty <b>is</b> the best policy.	Permanent truth
4	He said, "Fire <b>burns</b> ."	He said that fire <b>burns</b> .	Natural law
5	The teacher said, "The earth <b>is</b> round."	The teacher said that the earth <b>is</b> round.	Scientific fact
6	She said, "Ice <b>melts</b> in heat."	She said that ice <b>melts</b> in heat.	Natural law
7	He said, "Light <b>travels</b> fast."	He said that light <b>travels</b> fast.	Scientific fact
8	The teacher said, "Two and two <b>make</b> four."	The teacher said that two and two <b>make</b> four.	Mathematical truth
9	She said, "The sun <b>gives</b> heat."	She said that the sun <b>gives</b> heat.	Permanent
10	He said, "Gravity <b>pulls</b> objects."	He said that gravity <b>pulls</b> objects.	Natural law

- **Past reporting verb → tense changes**
- **Present reporting verb → no change**
- **Universal truth → no change**