

# CHANGE OF TENSES AND ITS CONDITION

---

## A. SENTENCES WHERE TENSE CHANGES

### Rule trigger

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

---

### 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.

---

### 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.

---

### 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.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

| #  | 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 do it</b> .”          | He said that he <b>could</b> do it.                          | Modal shifts             |
| 10 | She said, “I <b>may come</b> .”          | 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 finished</b> .”    | Ali says that he <b>has finished</b> . | 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 help</b> you.”      | He says that he <b>will help</b> 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