

Reported speech (range of tenses)

Reported speech, also known as indirect speech, is a way to report what someone else has said without quoting their exact words. When using reported speech, the tense of the reported statement may change, depending on the context and the time of reporting. Here's how different tenses are typically reported:

1. **Present simple in direct speech** becomes **past simple in reported speech**:
 - Direct speech: She says, "I like ice cream."
 - Reported speech: She said that she liked ice cream.
2. **Present continuous in direct speech** becomes **past continuous in reported speech**:
 - Direct speech: They say, "We are watching a movie."
 - Reported speech: They said that they were watching a movie.
3. **Present perfect in direct speech** becomes **past perfect in reported speech**:
 - Direct speech: He says, "I have finished my work."
 - Reported speech: He said that he had finished his work.
4. **Past simple in direct speech** remains **past simple in reported speech**:
 - Direct speech: She said, "I visited the museum."
 - Reported speech: She said that she visited the museum.
5. **Past continuous in direct speech** remains **past continuous in reported speech**:
 - Direct speech: He said, "I was cooking dinner."
 - Reported speech: He said that he was cooking dinner.
6. **Past perfect in direct speech** remains **past perfect in reported speech**:
 - Direct speech: They said, "We had already left."

- Reported speech: They said that they had already left.

7. **Future tenses in direct speech** can change:

- **Will** usually becomes **would**.
- **Going to** remains **going to**.
- **Present continuous** can become **would + be + present participle**.
- **Present simple** often becomes **would + base form**.
- **Modal verbs** like "can" may become "could."

Summary Chart:

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
She says, "I like ice cream."	She said that she liked ice cream.
They say, "We are watching a movie."	They said that they were watching a movie.
He says, "I have finished my work."	He said that he had finished his work.
She said, "I visited the museum."	She said that she visited the museum.
He said, "I was cooking dinner."	He said that he was cooking dinner.
They said, "We had already left."	They said that they had already left.