**REPORTED / INDIRECT SPEECH (STATEMENTS)**

There are two ways to convey somebody’s words:

**Direct Speech** (between quotation marks, eg. *He said “ I like you”*.)

and

**Indirect speech** without quotation marks but with changes in the original sentence, eg. *He said that he liked me*.

There are loads of verbs to use in Reported Speech; the most basic ones for statements are **say (something to someone) tell (somebody something).**

Study the following examples:

|  |  |
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| DIRECT SPEECH | INDIRECT SPEECH |
| “**I am** too tired to come to **your** party”, Jason told me. | Jason told me that **he was** too tired to come to **my** party. |
| “**Our** parents **are flying** to Paris **tonight**”, Mary and John said. | Mary and John said that **their** parents **were** **flying** to Paris **that night**. |
| “I**’ve** never **been** to the U.S. so **I** really **don’t know** what to expect”, Lakis told his manager. | Lakis told his manager that he **had** never **been** to the U.S., so **he didn’t know** what to expect. |
| “**I am** certain I **saw** **your** brother at the party **yesterday**”,Jane told me. | Jane told me that **she was** certain **she had seen** **my** brother at the party **the previous day**. |
| “The victim **was working** in his office **last night**”, the witness told the police. | The witness told the police that the victim **had been working** in his office **the previous night**. |
| “We **will** meet again, **next month**”, she told them. | She told them that they **would** meet again **the following month.** |
| “My mom **can’t** join the parents’ meeting; she **is** busy”, Sakis said. | Sakis said that his mom **couldn’t** join the meeting because she **was** busy. |

Notice the changes when reporting:

**TENSES**

Present Simple → Past Simple

Present continuous → Past Continuous

Present Perfect → Past Perfect

Past Simple → Past Perfect

Past Continuous → Past Perfect Continuous

Will/ shall → would

Can → could

(Could → had been able)

Must → had to

**ADVERBS /TIME WORDS**

Today /tonight → that day/that night

Yesterday → the night before/the previous night

The day before yesterday→ 2 days before

Tomorrow → the next day/the following day

The day after tomorrow → in 2 days’ time

Next week/year, etc. → the following week/year…..

Last week/year… → the previous week/year…

ago → before

this → that(depending on meaning)

here → there(depending on meaning)

**Note that you have to also adjust pronouns (αντωνυμίες) and possessive adjectives (κτητικά επίθετα), according to meaning.**

**ALSO NOTE**

1. **Past/Past Continuous used in time clauses, usually remain the same.**

eg. “When I was young….”

*She said that when she was young...*

1. **Past tenses used to describe a situation that remains the same do not change either.**

“I decided to sell my flat because it was in a very noisy area.”

*She said she had decided to sell her flat because it was in a very..*

1. **Unreal past after wish, would rather/sooner, it’s time…do not change.**

“I wish I were on holiday”.  *She said she wished she was on holiday.*

“It’s time we left”.  *She said it was time they left.*

1. **Conditional sentences types 2 and 3 remain unchanged.**

“If you were younger, you would get the job”.

He told me that if I were younger, I would get the job.

1. ***would, should, ought to, had better, might, used to, had better* do not usually change when reported.**
2. **Past Perfect cannot change, (it is in the far end of Past, there is nothing before it to change it to).**