**NOTES ON THE REPORTED SPEECH**

If the reporting verb is in the past tense, then usually we change the tenses in the reported speech.

* Direct speech: I like ice cream.
* Reported speech: She **said** (that) she **liked** ice cream.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tense** | **Direct Speech** | **Reported Speech** |
| present simple | I like ice cream | She said (that) she liked ice cream. |
| present continuous | I am living in London | She said (that) she was living in London. |
| past simple | I bought a car | She said (that) she had bought a car OR She said (that) she bought a car. |
| past continuous | I was walking along the street | She said (that) she had been walking along the street. |
| present perfect | I haven't seen Julie | She said (that) she hadn't seen Julie. |
| past perfect\* | I had taken English lessons before | She said (that) she had taken English lessons before. |
| will | I'll see you later | She said (that) she would see me later. |
| would\* | I would help, but... | She said (that) she would help but... |
| can | I can speak perfect English | She said (that) she could speak perfect English. |
| could\* | I could swim when I was four | She said (that) she could swim when she was four. |
| shall | I shall come later | She said (that) she would come later. |
| should\* | I should call my mother | She said (that) she should call her mother |
| might\* | I might be late | She said (that) she might be late |
| must | I must study at the weekend | She said (that) she must study at the weekend OR She said she had to study at the weekend |

\* doesn't change.

Occasionally, we don't need to change the present tense into the past if the information in direct speech is still true (but this is only for things which are general facts, and even then usually we like to change the tense):

* Direct speech: The sky is blue.

**Time words**

If we report something around the same time, then we probably do not need to make any changes to **time words**. But if we report something at a different time, we need to change time words. Look at these example sentences:

* He said: "It was hot **yesterday**." → He said that it had been hot **the day before**.
* He said: "We are going to swim **tomorrow**." → He said they were going to swim **the next day**.

Here is a list of common time words, showing how you change them for reported speech:

| **direct speech** | **reported speech** |
| --- | --- |
| now | then, at that time |
| today | that day, on Sunday, yesterday |
| tonight | that night, last night, on Sunday night |
| tomorrow | the next day/ the following day, on Sunday, today |
| yesterday | the day before/ the previous day, on Sunday |
| last night | the night before/ the previous night, on Sunday night |
| this week | that week, last week |
| last month | the month before/ the previous month, in May |
| next year | the following year, in 2014 |
| two minutes ago | two minutes before |
| in one hour | one hour later |

If we are in the same place when we report something, then we do not need to make any changes to **place words**. But if we are in a different place when we report something, then we need to change the place words. Look at these example sentences:

* He said: "It is cold in **here**." → He said that it was cold in **there**.
* He said: "How much is **this book**?" → He asked how much **the book** was.

## Place words

Here are some common place words, showing how you change them for reported speech:

| **direct speech** | **indirect speech** |
| --- | --- |
| here | there, |
| this | that |
| this book | the book, that book |
| in this room | in the room, in that room, in the kitchen |

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/reported-speech.html> ( further approach on Reported Sentences)