

## Indirect speech or reported speech

When we want to describe what someone said, one option is to use

**direct speech.** We use direct speech when we simply repeat what someone says, putting the phrase between speech marks:

the quotation marks “.....” colon:

- Sami said: “I’m really hungry.”

### ***Indirect Speech***

When we want to report what someone said *without speech marks* and without necessarily using exactly the same words, we can use *indirect speech*

(also called *reported speech*)

*For example:*

- Direct speech: “We’re quite cold in here.”
- Indirect speech: They say (that) they’re cold.

## What is indirect speech or reported speech?

When we tell people what another person said or thought, we often use **reported speech** or indirect speech. To do that, we need to change verb tenses (present, past, etc.) and pronouns (**I, you, my, your, etc.**) if the time and speaker are different. For example, **present tenses** become **past**, **I** becomes **he** or **she**, and **my** becomes **his** or **her**, etc.

- Amina : *'I don't have time.'* ⇒ Amina said that *she didn't have time.*
- karim: *'I am tired.'* ⇒ He said that *he was tired.*

### Omission of **that**

We often leave out **that** after reporting verbs like **say, think, etc.**

- She **said** *she* was late. (=She said *that* she was late.)

### Say or tell?

The most common verbs we use in reported speech are **say** and **tell**. We must pay attention here. We say **tell somebody something** and **say something (to somebody)**.

Use "**tell**" when there is a direct object indicating who was spoken to, as it means to inform or instruct someone. Use "**say**" when the listener is not mentioned or if the focus is on the words themselves.

- They **said** *me* (that) they would help me. ❌
- They **told** *me* (that) they would help me. ✅
- He **told** (that) he didn't have a car. ❌
- He **said** (that) he didn't have a car. ✅

## 1- Tense changes in indirect speech

# REPORTED SPEECH - VERB FORMS

test-english.com

## VERB FORMS

'I <b>am</b> exhausted.'	<b>PRESENT SIMPLE</b>	<b>PAST SIMPLE</b>	He said (that) he <b>was</b> exhausted.
'I <b>am</b> studying.'	<b>PRESENT CONTINU.</b>	<b>PAST CONTINU.</b>	She told me (that) she <b>was</b> studying.
'I <b>loved</b> the concert.'	<b>PAST SIMPLE</b>	<b>PAST PERFECT</b>	He told me (that) he <b>had</b> loved the concert.
'I <b>have</b> never <b>been</b> to Rome.'	<b>PRESENT PERFECT</b>	<b>PAST PERFECT</b>	She said (that) she <b>had</b> never <b>been</b> to Rome.
'I <b>will</b> help you.'	<b>WILL</b>	<b>WOULD</b>	He said (that) he <b>would</b> help me.
'You <b>must</b> pay attention.'	<b>MUST</b>	<b>HAD TO</b>	She told me (that) I <b>had to</b> pay attention.
'You <b>can</b> stay with me.'	<b>CAN</b>	<b>COULD</b>	She said (that) I <b>could</b> stay with her.
'I <b>may</b> arrive late.'	<b>MAY</b>	<b>MIGHT</b>	He told me (that) he <b>might</b> arrive late.
'We <b>should</b> help Tom.'	<b>COULD MIGHT SHOULD</b>	<b>COULD MIGHT SHOULD</b>	She said (that) we <b>should</b> help Tom.

test-english.com

## Direct speech

S said: "s + V<sub>1</sub> + ....."

- 1- The quotation marks are removed "..."
- 2- That
- 3- V<sub>1</sub>-----V<sub>2</sub>

## Indirect speech

S said that V<sub>2</sub> + .....

V<sub>1</sub>-----V<sub>2</sub>

All – Present ----- All – Past

All – Past ----- Past perfect

Will ... would

Can..... could

May ..... might

Must .... had to

Would / could ..... would / could

## 2- Changes in expressions

# REPORTED SPEECH - EXPRESSIONS

test-english.com

## EXPRESSIONS

'I will do it <b>now</b> .'	<b>NOW</b>	<b>THEN / AT THAT MOMENT</b>	He said (that) he would do it <b>then</b> .
'I have to do it <b>today</b> .'	<b>TODAY</b>	<b>THAT DAY</b>	She told me (that) she had to do it <b>that day</b> .
'You should call <b>tonight</b> .'	<b>TONIGHT</b>	<b>THAT NIGHT</b>	He told me (that) I should call <b>that night</b> .
'I saw her <b>last night</b> .'	<b>LAST NIGHT</b>	<b>THE PREVIOUS NIGHT/ THE NIGHT BEFORE</b>	She said (that) she'd seen her <b>the night before</b> .
'Call me <b>tomorrow</b> .'	<b>TOMORROW</b>	<b>THE NEXT/ FOLLOWING DAY</b>	He told me to call him <b>the next day</b> .
'I arrived <b>yesterday</b> .'	<b>YESTERDAY</b>	<b>THE PREVIOUS DAY/ THE DAY BEFORE</b>	She told me (that) she'd arrived <b>the day before</b> .
'We can do it <b>this week</b> .'	<b>THIS WEEK</b>	<b>THAT WEEK</b>	She said (that) we could do it <b>that week</b> .
'We can do it <b>next week</b> .'	<b>NEXT WEEK</b>	<b>THE NEXT/ FOLLOWING WEEK</b>	He told me (that) we could do it <b>the next week</b> .
'Tom is <b>here</b> .'	<b>HERE</b>	<b>THERE</b>	She said (that) Tom was <b>there</b> .

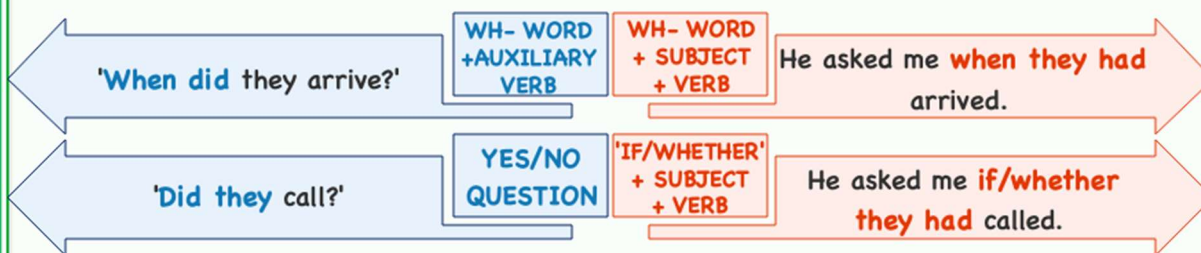
test-english.com

### 3- Questions and imperatives in indirect speech

## REPORTED SPEECH QUESTIONS AND IMPERATIVES

test-english.com

### QUESTIONS



test-english.com

### IMPERATIVES



test-english.com

In reported or indirect speech, we must also pay attention to the use of pronouns. When a person tells us something, he or she uses the first person (**I, me, my, we, us, our**) to talk about himself or herself and the second person (**you, your**) to talk about us, the person listening. But when we tell someone else what that person said, we are going to use the third person (**he, she, his, her, etc.**) to talk about the speaker and the first person (**I, me, my**) to talk about ourselves, the listener.

- *'I will help you.'* ⇒ *He said that he would help **me**.*
- *'That's my pen.'* ⇒ *She said that it was **her** pen.*
- *'I need your help.'* ⇒ *She said that **she** needed **my** help.*

## Exercise

- 1- 'I work in a bank.' ⇒ He said that he **worked** ✓ in a bank.
- Present simple (direct speech) ⇒ past simple (reported speech).
- 2- 'I am working today.' ⇒ She told us she **was working** ✓ that day.
- Present continuous (direct speech) ⇒ past continuous (reported speech).
  - **today** ⇒ **that day**
- 3- 'I've been ill for a couple of weeks.' ⇒ He told me he **had been ill** ✓ for a couple of weeks.
- Present perfect (direct speech) ⇒ past perfect (reported speech).
- 4- 'I was at the doctor's all morning.' ⇒ She told me that she **had been** ✓ at the doctor's all morning.
- Past simple (direct speech) ⇒ past perfect (reported speech).
- 5- 'I'll lend you the money.' ⇒ He told me he **would lend** ✓ me the money.
- **will** (direct speech) ⇒ **would** (reported speech).
- 6- 'I can't do it without your help.' ⇒ She said she **couldn't do** ✓ it without my help.
- **can** (direct speech) ⇒ **could** (reported speech).
- 7- 'The meeting may start early.' ⇒ He told us that the meeting **might start** ✓ early.
- **may** (direct speech) ⇒ **might** (reported speech).
- 8- 'I must leave early today.' ⇒ He said that he **had to leave** ✓ early that day.
- **must** - obligation (direct speech) ⇒ **had to** (reported speech).
- 9- 'You should talk to Jim.' ⇒ She said that I **should talk** ✓ to Jim.
- **could, might, should** (direct speech) ⇒ **could, might, should** (reported speech).
- 10- 'Get out!' ⇒ She told me **to get out** ✓.
- Orders or requests (direct speech) ⇒ **told me / asked me + to** infinitive (reported speech).