

Reported speech (indirect speech)

- If we report what another person has said, we usually do not use the speaker's exact words (direct speech), but reported (indirect) speech.

Therefore, you need to learn how to transform direct speech into reported speech.

The structure is a little different depending on whether you want to transform a statement, question or request.

When transforming statements, check whether you have to change:

- Pronouns.
- Present tense verbs (3rd person singular).
- Place and time expressions.
- Tense (backshift).

Tense	Direct speech	Indirect speech
Present simple	I like ice cream	He said that he liked ice cream.
Present continuous	I am living in Paris	He said that he was living in Paris.
Past simple	I bought a car.	He said he bought a car
Past continuous	I was walking along the street.	He said he had been walking along the street
Present perfect	I have not seen Many.	He said he hadn't seen Many
Past perfect	I had taken Spanish lesson before.	He said he had taken Spanish lesson before.
Will	I will see you later.	He said he would see me later
Would	I would help, but...	He said he would help but...
Can	I can speak perfect Spanish	He said he could speak perfect Spanish
Could	I could swim when I was four.	He said he could swim when he was four
Should	I should call my mother	He said he should call her mother.
Might	I might be late	He said he might be late.

GOOD LUCK