

REPORTED SPEECH

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn about using phrasal verbs
Key Goals	Here is an outline of what you will learn today: 1. How to use Reported Speech 2. How to correctly form Reported Speech

1. How to use Reported Speech

Reported Speech is when you tell somebody what another person said.

This is different than Direct Speech, when you say something to somebody directly.

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Emma: "I play badminton"	"Emma says that she plays badminton"
David: "I'm going to France on holiday"	"David says that he is going to France on holiday"

Reported Speech can use "backshift". Backshift is adapting a sentence to the earlier tense for it to make sense in the reported speech.

When reporting statements, if the sentence starts in the present, there is no backshift.



See the examples below:

Emma: "I play badminton" \longrightarrow "Emma **says** that she **plays** badminton"

In the reported speech sentence above, "**says**" is in the present tense, so the verb (play) must also be in the present tense as "**plays**".

Emma: "I play badminton" \longrightarrow "Emma **said** that she **played** badminton"

In the reported speech sentence above, the "**said**" is in the past tense, so the verb (play) must also be in the past tense as "**played**".

2. How to correctly form Reported Speech

Most tenses have a backshift when reporting speech, because the original statement was said in the past.

See the table below for more information on how tenses backshift during reported speech.

Backshift	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Present Simple > Past Simple	Emma: "I play badminton"	"Emma said that she played badminton"
Present Continuous > Past Continuous	Emma: "I'm playing badminton"	"Emma said that she was playing badminton"
Present Perfect > Past Perfect	Emma: "I've played badminton since I was a child"	"Emma said that she had played badminton since she was a child"
Present Perfect Continuous > Past Perfect Continuous	Emma: "I've been playing badminton for 2 hours"	"Emma said that she had been playing badminton for 2 hours"
Past Simple > Past Perfect	Emma: "I played badminton yesterday"	"Emma said that she had played badminton yesterday"
Past Continuous > Past Perfect Continuous	Emma: "I was playing badminton when it rained "	"Emma said that she had been playing badminton when it had rained "
Past Perfect > Past Perfect	Emma: "I had finished playing badminton when they arrived "	"Emma said that she had finished playing badminton when they had arrived "

Backshift	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
Past Perfect Continuous > Past Perfect Continuous	Emma: "I had been playing badminton when it rained "	"Emma said that she had been playing badminton when it had rained "
Future Simple (will + verb) > Conditional (would + verb)	Emma: "I will play badminton"	"Emma said that she would play badminton"

Exercise:

Change these sentences from direct speech to reported speech:

1. Felix: "I play guitar"

_____.

2. Michael: "I went to Hungary last year"

_____.

3. Claudia: "I had been sitting there all day!"

_____.

4. Joe: "I'll be working in Bahrain next month"

_____.

Answers:

1. Felix said that he plays guitar.
2. Michael said that he had been to Hungary last year.
3. Claudia said that she had been sitting there all day.
4. Joe said that he would be working in Bahrain next month.

Learn More:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/reported-speech-1-statements>

<https://www.ecenglish.com/learnenglish/lessons/how-use-reported-speech>

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/everyday-grammar-reported-speech/2856671.html>