

Tikrit University

College of Nursing

Basic Nursing Sciences



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English

(Reported Speech)

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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.

- Sally: '*I don't have time.*' ⇒ Sally said that *she didn't have time.*
- Peter: '*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.)
- I *thought I* would get the job.

Say or Tell?

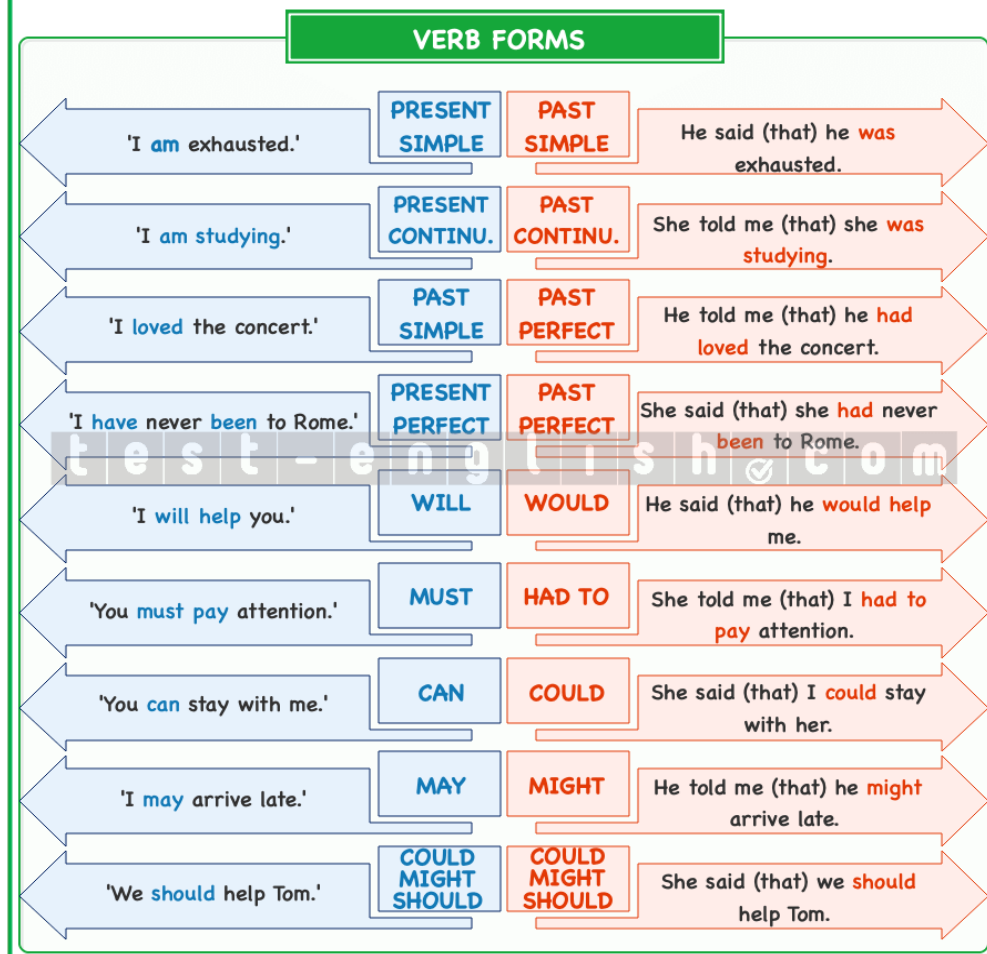
The most common verbs we use in reported speech are **say** and **tell**. We must pay attention here. We say **tell somebody something** and **say something (to somebody)**.

- 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. ✓

Tense changes in indirect speech

REPORTED SPEECH - VERB FORMS

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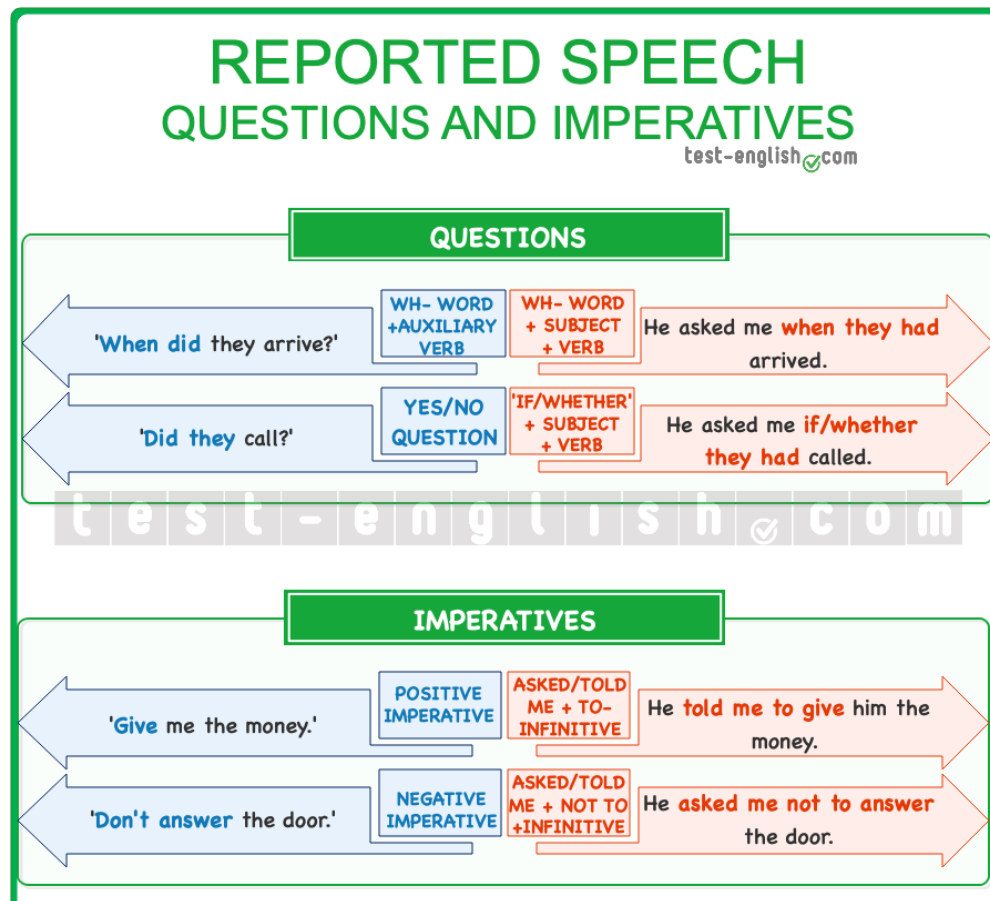
When a person said something **in the past**, and **now** we tell somebody what that person said, the time is different, and for this reason, the verb tenses change. Look at a summary of these changes.

Changes in expressions

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

There are adverbs or expressions of time and place that change when we report what someone says. Here you have a list.

Questions and imperatives in indirect speech



We use the normal order of words in **reported questions**: subject + verb. We don't use an auxiliary verb like **do** or **did**.

When we report an order or instruction, we use the form **ask** or **tell someone to do something**.

Pronouns changes in indirect speech

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.*