

Reported speech

Changes:

1) **Tense** - One step back

<u>DIRECT</u>		<u>REPORTED</u>
PRESENT	changes to	PAST
present simple present continuous present perfect simple present perfect continuous		past simple past continuous past perfect simple past perfect continuous
PAST		PAST PERFECT
past simple past continuous		past perfect simple past perfect continuous
PAST PERFECT		NO CHANGE
past perfect simple past perfect continuous		no change
	MODALS	
will can may must		would could might had to (+) / mustn't (-)*
would could might should		NO CHANGE

e.g. “ You **must** take off your shoes before you go in.” (obligation)

She said that I **had to** take off my shoes before I went in.

“ You **mustn't** eat in the library.” (prohibition)

The librarian said that we **mustn't** eat

Notice:

The librarian said we **didn't have** to eat ... = **wasn't necessary**

2) Subject and object pronouns, possessive pronouns, and possessive adjectives

e.g. *I* might change to *She* (depends on the context)

me - her, my - her, mine - her

3) Time and place adverbials

<u>DIRECT</u>	<u>REPORTED</u>
today	that day
tomorrow	the following/ next day/ the day after
yesterday	the day before/ the previous day
now	then
next week	the following/next week/ the week after
last year	the year before/ the previous year
2 months ago	2 months before
here	there
this/ these	that/ those

No change

No tense change

When you report sth soon after someone has said it, then the tense often stays the same as in the original sentence.

“I **can't come** to the party tonight.”

I've just spoken to Tim and he said that he **can't come** to the party tonight.

When you report sth that is still true at the moment of reporting.

“I **live** in Australia.”

He said he **lives** in Australia.

No time/ place adverbial change

Time/ place adverbials don't change if the time/ place is still the same when reporting.

“I'll meet you in park **tomorrow**.” (Today is Monday.)

She said she'd meet us in the park **tomorrow**. (Today is still Monday.)

Reporting verbs (say/ tell)

Say sth (to s.o.)

Say (that)

E.g. He said hello (to the lady).

He said (that) he was hungry.

Tell s.o. sth

Tell s.o. (that)

E.g. He told me the time.

He told me (that) he was hungry.

1. Complete the following sentences with *say* or *tell*. Make any necessary tense changes.

1. _____ me what you need.
2. Have you _____ the doctor about it?
3. Did you _____ something to me?
4. He doesn't _____ me anything.
5. Mary _____ her mother she was going to the office.
6. Why didn't she _____ goodbye?
7. _____ him to be quiet.
8. Who _____ that?
9. _____ that you won't forget me.

1. ANSWERS

1. TELL me what you need.
2. Have you TOLD the doctor about it?
3. Did you SAY something to me?
4. He doesn't TELL me anything.
5. Mary TOLD her mother she was going to the office.
6. Why didn't she SAY goodbye?
7. TELL him to be quiet.
8. Who SAID that?
9. SAY that you won't forget me.

Reporting questions

1) Yes/ No Qs

‘Do you like it here?’

She asked (us) **if/ whether** we liked it there.

2) Q-word Qs

‘Where are you going on holiday?’

They asked (me) where I was going on holiday.

STRUCTURES

1) Yes/ No Qs

‘Do you like it here?’

She asked (us) **if we liked** it there.

if/ whether + subj + vb

NO DO/DOES/DID

NO Inversion

Word order = an affirmative sentence.

2) Q-word Qs

‘Where are you going on holiday?’

They asked (me) **where I was going** on holiday.

Q-word (same as the one used in direct speech) + subj + vb

NO DO/DOES/DID

NO Inversion

Word order = an affirmative sentence.

Report the following questions.

1. What's Peter's address?
2. When's the new manager coming?
3. How does she know my name?
4. Do they like me?
5. Will I be ready in time?

6. Is there any food in the house?
7. Why are all the windows open?
8. How many books does he want?
9. Is service included or not?
10. Can I pay by cheque?

Answers

- 1) She asked (me) what Peter's address was.
- 2) He asked when the new manager was coming.
- 3) He wondered how she knew his name.
- 4) I wondered if/ whether they liked me.
- 5) They asked me if/ whether I would be ready in time.
- 6) I asked if/ whether there was any food in the house.
- 7) I wondered why all the windows were open.
- 8) I asked how many books he wanted.
- 9) I asked if/ whether service was included or not.
- 10) I asked if/ whether I could pay by cheque.

REPORTING VERBS ASK and TELL

Compare:

1) a) He asked me where I was from.

“*Where are you from?*” = **a question for information**

b) He asked me to close the door.

“*Can/ Could you close the door, please?*” = **a request**

2) a) She told me that she was from Lithuania.

“*I'm from Lithuania.*” = **information**

b) They told him to hurry up.

“*Hurry up!*” = **a command**

reported requests – ask s.o. to do sth

reported commands - tell s.o. to do sth

