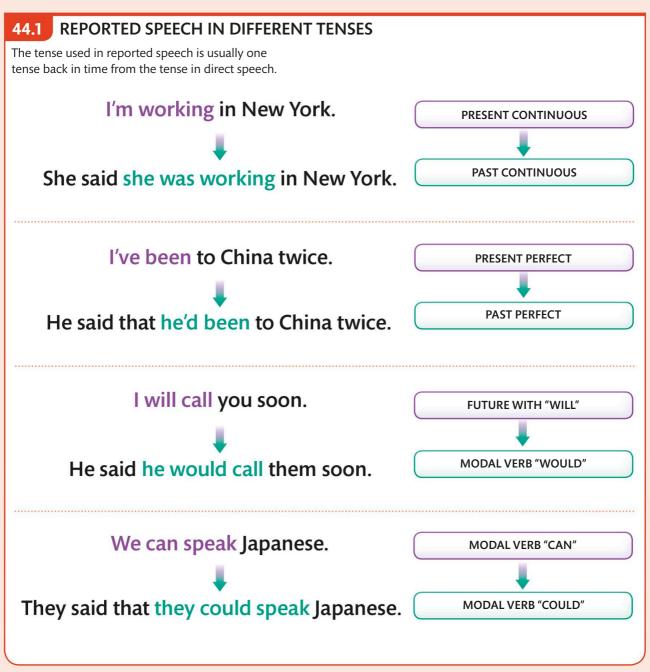
44 Tenses in reported speech

In reported speech, the reported verb usually "goes back" a tense. Time and place references and pronouns sometimes also change.

See also:

Present continuous 4 Past continuous 10 Past perfect simple 13 Modal verbs 56



REPORTED SPEECH AND THE PAST SIMPLE

The past simple in direct speech can either stay as the past simple or change to the past perfect in reported speech. The meaning is the same.

I arrived in Delhi on Saturday.

DIRECT SPEECH WITH PAST SIMPLE

He said { he arrived he'd arrived } in Delhi on Saturday.

REPORTED SPEECH WITH PAST SIMPLE OR PAST PERFECT

REPORTED SPEECH WITHOUT CHANGE OF TENSE

If the situation described is ongoing, the verb does not have to change tense in reported speech.



I like eating cake.

Amelia said that she likes eating cake.

Amelia still likes eating cake.



FURTHER EXAMPLES



Your hat looks great.

He said that my hat looks great.

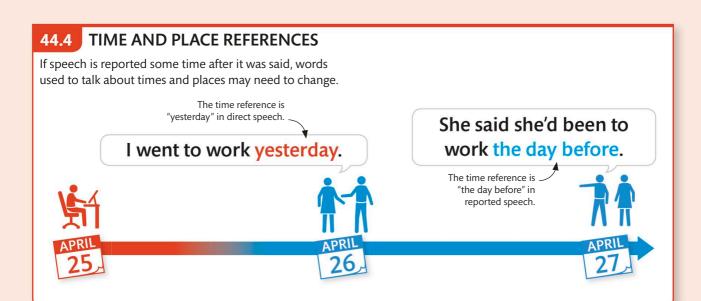


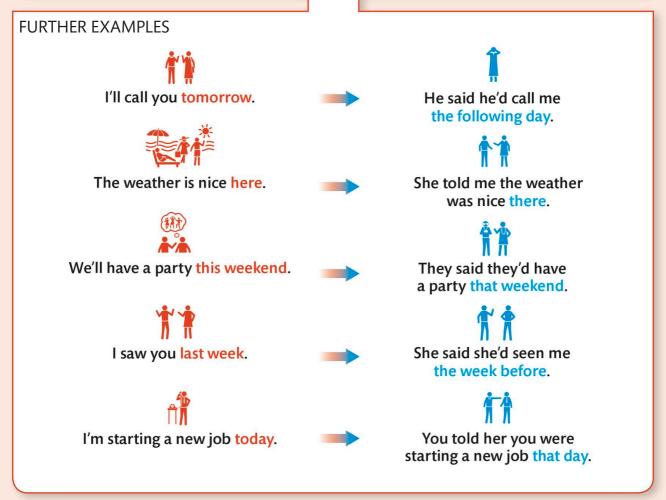


I love your tie.

He said that he loves my tie.







44.5 OTHER CHANGES IN REPORTED SPEECH

In reported speech, pronouns may also need to be changed to ensure they refer to the correct person or thing.



I don't believe these ghost stories.

He said that he didn't believe those ghost stories.

"These" is replaced by the more distant "those.





This house gives me the creeps.

He said that that house gave him the creeps.



"This" is replaced by the more distant "that."

FURTHER EXAMPLES



I don't like my new haircut.

He said that he didn't like his new haircut.





I can't wait to move into our new house.

He said that he couldn't wait to move into their new house.





Are you going to come with us?

He asked if I was going to go with them.





These are the best pastries I've ever tasted.

She said they were the best pastries she'd ever tasted.

