



2nd Semester



Topic 56:

Reported speech



Reported speech is when we tell someone what another person said. To do this, we can use direct speech or indirect speech.

Direct speech: *'I work in a bank,' said Daniel.*

Indirect speech: *Daniel said that he worked in a bank.*

In indirect speech, we often use a tense which is 'further back' in the past (e.g. *worked*) than the tense originally used (e.g. *work*). This is called 'backshift'. We also may need to change other words that were used, for example pronouns.



Tense	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
present simple	I like ice cream	She said (that) she liked ice cream.
present continuous	I am living in London	She said (that) she was living in London.
past simple	I bought a car	She said (that) she had bought a car OR She said (that) she bought a car.
past continuous	I was walking along the street	She said (that) she had been walking along the street.
present perfect	I haven't seen Julie	She said (that) she hadn't seen Julie.
past perfect*	I had taken English lessons before	She said (that) she had taken English lessons before.
will	I'll see you later	She said (that) she would see me later.
would*	I would help, but.."	She said (that) she would help but...
can	I can speak perfect English	She said (that) she could speak perfect English.
could*	I could swim when I was four	She said (that) she could swim when she was four.
shall	I shall come later	She said (that) she would come later.
should*	I should call my mother	She said (that) she should call her mother
might*	I might be late	She said (that) she might be late
must	I must study at the weekend	She said (that) she must study at the weekend OR She said she had to study at the weekend



Change this direct speech into reported speech:

1. "He works in a bank" She said

2. "We went out last night" She told me

3. "I'm coming!" She said

4. "I was waiting for the bus when he arrived" She told me

5. "I'd never been there before" She said

6. "I didn't go to the party" She told me

7. "Lucy will come later" She said

8. "He hasn't eaten breakfast" She told me
