**Reported speech**

**Form**

When we report what someone said, we often move the tense 'backwards'.

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| **Direct speech** | **Reported speech** |
| *Present simple*  Maria: 'I **live** in Peru.' | *Past simple*  Maria said (that) she **lived** in Peru. |
| Present continuous  James: 'l **am working** at home.' | *Past continuous*  James said (that) he **was working** at home. |
| *Past simple*  Olivia: 'The interpreter **left** this morning.' | *Past perfect simple*  Olivia said (that) the interpreter **had left** that morning. |
| *Past continuous*  Sam: 'We **were working** here.' | *Past perfect continuous*  Sam said (that) they **had been working** there. |
| *Present perfect simple*  Katy: 'l **have never been** to Africa.' | *Past perfect simple*  Katy said (that) she **had never been** to Africa. |
| *will/won't*  Jan: 'l **won't visit** them.' | *would/wouldn't*  Jan said (that) he **wouldn't visit** them. |
| *can/can't*  Penelope: 'l **can't do** it.' | *could/couldn't*  Penelope said (that) she **couldn't do** it. |

We often need to make other changes when we report what someone said:

* Pronouns: l - he/she; we - they; my - his/her; our - their; you (object) - me
* Time expressions: now - then; today - that day; tomorrow - the next day; yesterday - the previous day; last night - the night before; this morning - that morning
* Other changes: this - that; here - there

**Reported questions**

* For *yes/no* questions, we form reported questions using *if* or *whether*. We do not use the auxiliary verb *do* in the reported question.

'Do you want to be a researcher on this project?' - He asked (me) ***if/whether l wanted to be*** a researcher on that project.

* When we report questions with *what*, *why*, *where*, *who*, *when*, *how*, the word order in the reported question is the same as for an affirmative statement.

'What have you been doing?' - l asked (him) ***what he had been doing***.

'Why haven't we seen this information before?' - She asked ***why they hadn't seen*** that information before.

Note that we do not use question marks in reported questions.