

# Reported speech

## Introduction



She said (that) she **lived** in London.

## Definition

When we tell someone what another person said earlier, we don't usually repeat the direct speech that we heard.

She said, "I live in London." ❌

She said (that) she **lived** in London. ✅

## Construction

In reported speech, we use one tense back in time from the tense in the direct speech.

Direct speech	Reported [indirect] speech
<b>Present simple</b> I prefer coffee.	<b>Past simple</b> She said she <b>preferred</b> coffee.
<b>Present continuous</b> I'm reading a great book.	<b>Past continuous</b> He told me he <b>was reading</b> a great book.
<b>Past simple</b> I went to Japan.	<b>Past perfect simple</b> She said she' <b>d been</b> to Japan.
<b>Past continuous</b> We were watching TV.	<b>Past perfect continuous</b> She said they' <b>d been watching</b> TV.

<b>Present perfect simple</b> I've finished the report.	<b>Past perfect simple</b> He told me he'd <b>finished</b> the report.
<b>Present perfect continuous</b> I've been writing a report.	<b>Past perfect continuous</b> He said he'd <b>been writing</b> a report.
<b>Past perfect simple</b> I'd always wanted to go to Italy.	<b>Past perfect simple (no change)</b> She said she'd always <b>wanted</b> to go to Italy.
<b>Past perfect continuous</b> I'd been discussing it with my boss.	<b>Past perfect continuous (no change)</b> He said he'd <b>been discussing</b> it with his boss.
<b>Future simple</b> I'll email you.	<b>Would + bare infinitive</b> He told me he'd <b>email</b> me.
<b>Future continuous</b> We'll be visiting the new plant.	<b>Would be + present participle</b> She said they'd <b>be visiting</b> the new plant.
<b>Going to</b> I'm going to buy a new car.	<b>Was going to + bare infinitive</b> He said he <b>was going to buy</b> a new car.
<b>Present continuous for future</b> I'm having lunch with friends.	<b>Past continuous</b> She said <b>she was having</b> lunch with friends.
<b>Future perfect simple</b> I'll have finished it by 4 o'clock.	<b>Would have + past participle</b> She said she'd <b>have finished</b> it by 4 o'clock.
<b>Future perfect continuous</b> By May, I'll have been working here for two years.	<b>Would have been + present participle</b> He said that by May, he'd <b>have been working</b> here for two years.

## Exception

- 1) It isn't necessary to change the tense if something is still true or relevant.