

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
Present simple I prefer coffee.	Past simple She said she preferred coffee.
Present continuous I'm reading a great book.	Past continuous He told me he was reading a great book.
Past simple I went to Japan.	Past perfect simple She said she' d been to Japan.
Past continuous We were watching TV.	Past perfect continuous She said they' d been watching TV.

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

Exception

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