

REPORTED SPEECH

Tense changes

- "I **want** to leave for Saigon right now" – Paco said he **wanted** to leave for Saigon right then.
- "I **'m going** travelling around the world" – He said he **was going** travelling around the world.
- "I **haven't seen** the film" – She said she **hadn't seen** the film.
- "I **have been working** for more than fourteen hours" – She said she **had been working** for more than fourteen hours.
- "I **was studying** all week" – She said she **had been studying** all week.
- "He **went** on holiday to Africa" – He said he **had gone** on holiday to Africa.

Sentences that are already in the Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous forms remain the same:

- "I **hadn't seen** him before" – She said she **hadn't seen** him before.
- "I **had been waiting** for a long time when you arrived" – He said he **had been waiting** for a long time when I arrived".

Reporting modal verbs

Modal verbs also go back one tense.

- **Will** becomes **would**.
"I **will** see my friend later" – She said she **would** see his friend later.
- **Can** becomes **could**.
"I **can** speak English far better now" – Paco said he **could** speak far better then.
- **May** becomes **might**.
"It **may** become colder over night" – He said it **might** become colder over night.

*Direct speech using **would, could, might** and **should** all stay the same in reported speech.*

"You **should** stop drinking fizzy soft drinks" – He said I **should** stop drinking fizzy soft drinks.

Other changes

Time expressions also change in reported speech.

today – that day

tomorrow – the day after / the next day

yesterday – the day before / the previous day

now – then

next week/month/year – the week/month/year after / the following week/month/year

last week – the week before / the previous week

ago – before

Other expressions that change:

here – there

this – that

these – those