

Reported Speech - statements

These classnotes are not designed to be studied, but to be used for reference (to solve doubts), so a lot of information is repeated for easy access to all the relevant information in each section. Pay special attention to the words in **colour**, which signal changes in reported speech.

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I'm hungry.

Sorry?

I said: "I'm hungry".

DIRECT SPEECH

This is exactly what I said (literal words).

I said (that) I'm hungry.

REPORTED SPEECH

I'm telling you again what I've just said

(some words may not be literal).

When the subject is the same, there are no changes in the pronouns or possessives.

We usually omit "that" after the introductory verb.

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I'm hungry. (literal words)

What did **he** say?

He says: "I'm hungry".

DIRECT SPEECH

This is exactly what he said (literal words).

He says he's hungry.

REPORTED SPEECH

I'm telling you what he has just said (some words may not be literal).

I'm sure **my** friend is **coming** with **me**. (literal words)

What did **he** say?

He said: "I'm sure **my** friend is **coming** with **me**".

DIRECT SPEECH

This is exactly what he said (literal words).

He says he is sure **his** friend is **coming** with **him**.

REPORTED SPEECH

I'm telling you what he has just said (some words may not be literal).

When the subject is different, all pronouns and possessives change to refer to the same person.

When the introductory verb (**says**) is **in the present** (or it refers to something that has just been said), **the verb tenses do not change.**

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"I'm hungry." (literal words)

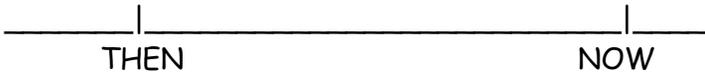
DIRECT SPEECH (This is exactly what he said.)



What did he say?

He said he was hungry.

REPORTED SPEECH (I'm telling you NOW what he said THEN.)
(He probably isn't hungry any more.)



When the subject is different, all pronouns and possessives change to refer to the same person.

When the introductory verb (**said/told/asked**) is in the past, the verb tenses change:

- present changes into past
- past changes into past perfect
- future changes into conditional

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"I am watching TV."

DIRECT SPEECH

"I usually watch a lot of TV."

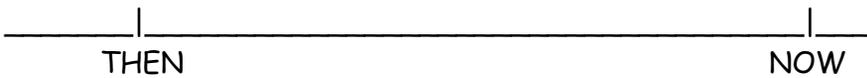


What did he say?

He said he was watching TV.

REPORTED SPEECH

He said he usually watched a lot of TV.



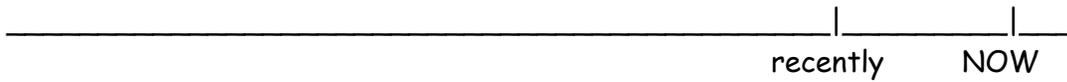
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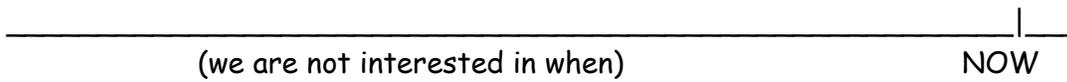
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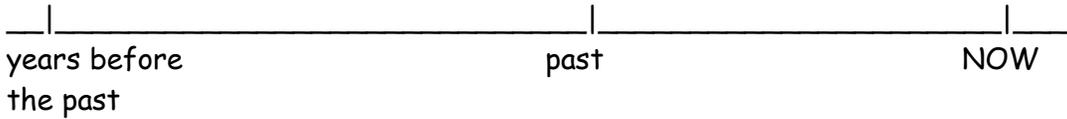
"I read that book recently."



"I have read that book."



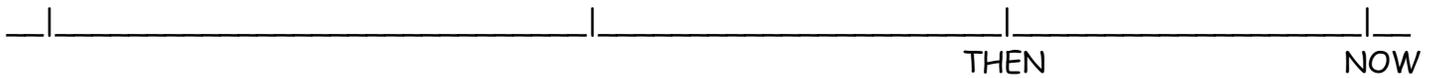
"I had read that book years before I started secondary school."



She said she had read that book.

She said she had read that book recently.

She said she had read that book years before she started secondary school.



When the introductory verb (**said/told/asked**) is in the past, the verb tenses change:

- present changes into past
- **past changes into past perfect**
- future changes into conditional

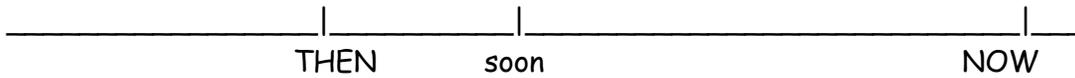
When the subject is different, all pronouns and possessives change to refer to the same person.

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"I will see you soon, Susan."



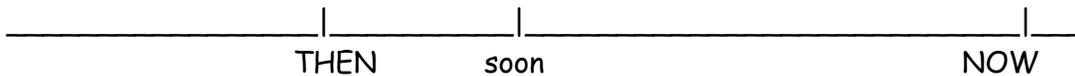
He told Susan he would see her soon.



"I wouldn't eat that."



He said he wouldn't eat that.



When the introductory verb is **"told"**, not "said", it must be followed by the indirect object (the person someone told something to).

When the introductory verb (**said/told/asked**) is in the past, the verb tenses change:

- present changes into past
- past changes into past perfect
- **future changes into conditional**

When the subject is different, all pronouns and possessives change to refer to the same person.

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Reported Speech - directives

Pass me the salt, please.

_____ | _____
THEN

He asked her to pass him the salt.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

Open fire!

_____ | _____
THEN

The sergeant ordered us to open fire.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

Let's go to the cinema.

Shall we go to the cinema?

How about going to the cinema?

Why don't you go to the cinema?

_____ | _____
THEN

He suggested going to the cinema.

He suggested we went to the cinema.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

Would you like some biscuits?

_____ | _____
THEN

She offered me some biscuits.

She asked me if I would like some biscuits.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

Would you like to come to the cinema with us?

_____ | _____
THEN

They invited me to come to the cinema with them.

They asked me if I would like to come to the cinema with them.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

Shall I buy the newspaper?

He asked if he should buy the newspaper?

_____ | _____
THEN

He offered/volunteered to buy the newspaper.

He asked if he should buy the newspaper.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

Don't touch that!

_____ | _____
THEN

He warned me not to touch that.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

Why don't you take an aspirin?

I would take an aspirin (if I were you).

_____ | _____
THEN

He advised me to take an aspirin.

He said he would take an aspirin (if he were me).

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

=====

Reported Speech - other modal verbs

What **shall I do**?

_____ | _____
THEN

He **asked me** what he **should do**.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

Will **you marry me**?

_____ | _____
THEN

He **asked her** to **marry him**.

He **asked her** if she **would marry him**.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

It **may rain tomorrow**.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN

He **said** it **might rain the following day**.

_____ | _____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW

I **must study** for **tomorrow's** exam.

_____ | _____ | _____
THEN

He **said he had to study** for **the following day's** exam.

_____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____
THEN NOW