

DIRECT AND REPORTED SPEECH

Simple Present

When converting simple present tense verbs from direct speech to reported speech, there are some changes that need to be made to the verb tense and reporting verbs.

Direct She said, "It is a great dessert."

Reported She said that it was a great dessert.

i In this example, the simple present verb "is" is changed to the past tense "was" in the reported speech.

Present Continuous

To convert present continuous direct speech to reported speech, change the present continuous tense verb to the past continuous tense verb.

Direct She said, "I am studying."

Reported She said that she was studying.

i In this example, the present continuous tense "am studying" is changed to the past continuous tense "was studying" in the reported speech.

Present Perfect

To convert present perfect direct speech to reported speech, change the present perfect tense verb to the past perfect tense verb.

Direct He said, "I have gone shopping."

Reported He said that he had gone shopping.

i In this example, the present perfect tense "have gone" is changed to the past perfect tense "had gone" in the reported speech.

Present Perfect Continuous

To convert present perfect continuous direct speech to reported speech, change the present perfect continuous tense verb to the past perfect continuous tense verb.

Direct She said, "I have been modeling."

Reported She said that she had been modeling.

i In this example, the present perfect continuous "have been modeling" is changed to the past perfect continuous "had been modeling."

Simple Past

To convert simple past direct speech to reported speech, change the simple past tense verb to the past perfect tense verb.

Direct They said, "We finished our project."

Reported They said they had finished their project.

i In this example, the simple past "finished" is changed to the past perfect "had finished" in the reported speech.

Past Continuous

To convert past continuous direct speech to reported speech, change the simple past continuous verb to the past perfect continuous tense verb.

Direct He said, "I was drinking coffee."

Reported He said that he had been drinking coffee.

i The past continuous "was drinking" is changed to the past perfect continuous "had been drinking" in the reported speech.