

UNIT 14

DIRECT - REPORTED SPEECH

- Direct speech is exactly what someone says.
"I'll go to York," Jim said.
- Reported speech is the exact meaning of what someone said but not the exact words.
Jim said (that) he would go to York.

SAY - TELL

- We use **say** with or without a personal pronoun. We use **to** after **say** when there is a personal pronoun.
*"I can't help you," Tim **said to me**.*
*He **said** that he would be on time.*
- We use **tell** with a personal object pronoun. We never use **to** after tell
*He **told me** that Sue had left.*
*"Sue has left," he **told me**.*

CHANGES IN REPORTED SPEECH

- When the reporting verb (say, tell etc) is in the present simple tense, the verb tenses do not change in reported speech.
*"He is wrong," she **says**. (direct)*
*She **says** he is wrong. (reported)*
- When the reporting verb is in the past tense, the verb tenses change in reported speech.
*"He **is** wrong," she **said**. (direct)*
*She **said** he **was** wrong. (reported)*

Tenses change as follows:

Present Simple → Past Simple

"I like it," he said. → *He said he **liked** it.*

Present Continuous → Past Continuous

"I'm going out," he said. → *He said he **was going out**.*

Past Simple → Past Perfect

"We met in 1998," he said. → *He said they **had met** in 1998.*

Past Continuous → Past Perfect Continuous

"Tom was eating pizza," he said. → *He said Tom **had been eating** pizza.*

Present Perfect → Past Perfect

"I've known her," he said. → *He said he **had known** her.*

Will → Would

"I'll tell her," he said. → *He said he **would tell** her.*

Can → Could

"I can do it," he said. → *He said he **could** do it.*

Personal pronouns and possessive adjectives change according to context.

"I saw you," she said to George. → *She said to George that **she** had seen **him**.*

REPORTED QUESTIONS

Reported questions are introduced with **ask, want to know** etc. We use affirmative word order and the question mark becomes a full stop. Inverted commas are omitted.

To report a question we use:

- **ask + question word** (who, where, when etc) when the direct question begins with a question word.
"What's his name?" She asked. → *She **asked what** his name was.*
- **ask + if/whether** when the direct question begins with an auxiliary verb.
"Can you help me?" she asked. → *She asked **if** I could help her.*