***REPORTED SPEECH***

First I'd like to draw your attention that once the reporting verb (e.g. SAY, TELL) is in the present simple [She says] or the present perfect [He has told us] or the future simple tense [They will tell you], there's no change of tense at all.

Example:
She **says**, "John *prefers* tea"
She **has told us** that John *prefers* tea.

Yet, once the reporting verb is in the past (e.g. SAID, TOLD, REPORTED? etc), many changes occur depending of course on the tense used in the moment of speaking.

1. In direct speech the reporter repeats the original words of the speaker:
**Leila said, "The cat has broken the vase."**
2. In the indirect (reported) speech the reporter gives the exact meaning of the speaker's utterance without necessarily repeating the exact words of the speaker:
**Leila said (that) the cat had broken the vase.**



**Tense Changes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Direct Speech** | **Indirect Speech** |
|   do /does |   did  |
|    am / is / are doing |   was / were doing  |
|    have / has done |   had done  |
|    did |   had done  |
|    shall do |   should do  |
|    will do |   would do  |
|    can do |   could do  |
|    must do |   had to do  |
|    needn't do |   didn't have/need to do  |
|    should  |   should  |
|    would  |   would  |
|    could  |   could  |

**Some other expressions such as the adverbs of time and place also change :**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Direct Speech** | **Indirect Speech** |
|   here |   there  |
|   now / at the moment |   then / at once  |
|   this |   that  |
|   yesterday |   the day before (or) the previous day  |
|   the day before yesterday |   two days before  |
|   **last** week/month/year/Monday etc. |   **the previous** week/month/year/Monday etc.  |
|   tomorrow |   the day after (or) the following day  |
|   the day after tomorrow |   in two days time  |
|   **next** week/month/year/February/Sunday etc. |   **The following** week/month/year/February/Sunday etc.  |
|   three years **ago** |   three years **before**  |
|   today / tonight |   that day / that night  |

Look at these examples:

- John said, "I *am* going to look for a larger flat"
- John said that he *was* going to look for a larger flat.

- Sue said, "I *have* done my homework."
- Sue said that she *had* done her homework.

This is also true with *modal verbs* (will, can, must, may, etc). Our emphasis should go to them and keep the **main verbs** untouched.

- John said, "The pupils *may* **go** home earlier this afternoon"
- John said that the pupils *might* **go** home earlier that afternoon.

- The teacher said, "The best students *will* be rewarded."
- The teacher said that the best students *would* be rewarded.

Illustrations:





