**R E P O R T E D S P E E C H**

When passing from the direct speech to the reported speech, there are several changes that occur in the subordinate clause. (În trecerea de la vorbirea directă la cea indirectă, în propoziția secundară au loc mat multe schimbări.)

**V E R B C H A N G E S**

Let’s represent the tenses we have studied on the axis of time, as well as the changes that occur in the subordinate clause, when the verb in the main clause is no longer at the present tense, but at a past tense (Reprezentăm mai jos axa timpurilor cu timpurile verbale studiate, precum şi schimbările care apar la verbul din subordonată, atunci când timpul din principală trece de la prezent la trecut):

PAST PERF ECT

PAST

PRESENT PERFECT

PRESENT

FUTURE

The Sequence of tenses occurs when we turn direct speech into indirect speech. The tense of the verb in the subordinate clause depends on the tense of the verb in the main clause. (Concordanta timpurilor apare la trecerea de la vorbirea directă la cea indirectă. Timpul verbului din subordonată depinde de timpul verbului din propoziția principală).

**WHEN IN THE MAIN CLAUSE (Când în propozi**ț**ia principal**ă**)**:

• The verb is in a present, present perfect or future tense -> we can report the direct speech without any change of tense. (verbul este la un timp prezent sau viitor, în propoziția subordonată nu au loc schimbări la nivelul verbului).

• The verb is in a past tense -> verbs of the subordinate clause change into a corresponding past tense (as shown in the figure above) (verbul este la un timp trecut, în propoziția subordonată verbul trece la unul din timpurile specificate în figura de mai sus cu ajutorul săge ilor):

Ex **- Direct Speech**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tom says. I am very well now  But I was ill last week  I have swallowed a lot of pills these days.  So I will not take medicine anymore | Tom Spune: Mă simt foarte bine acum  Dar săptămâna trecută am fost bolnav.  Am înghițit o mulțime de pastile zilele acestea.  Deci nu voi mai lua medicamente. |

- **Indirect Speech**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tom says (that) | Tom said (that) |
| PRESENT  he is very well now  el este foarte bine acum | PAST  he was very well then.  era foarte bine atunci. |
| PAST / PRESENT PERFECT  he was ilI last week  he has swallowed a lot of pills these days.  a fost bolnav săptămâna trecută  a înghițit o mulțime de pastile în aceste zile. | PAST PERFECT  he had been ill a week before.  he had swallowed a lot of pills those days.  fusese bolnav cu o săptămână înainte.  înghiţise o mulţime de pastile în acele zile. |
| FUTURE  he will not take medicine anymore  nu va mai lua medicamente | FUTURE IN THE PAST  he would not take medicine anymore.  nu ar mai lua medicamente |

NOTE: These tenses refer to both aspects: simple and continuous. (Aceste schimbări au loc atât la aspectul simplu, cât şi la aspectul continuu.)

The Imperative is turned into infinitive in indirect speech. (În vorbirea indirectă, imperativul se transformă în infintiv, în limba engleză).

Ex He said: “Lie down, Tom, and don’t move” = He told Tom to lie down and not to move.

**QUESTIONS IN INDIRECT SPEECH**

The following changes occur (La trecerea întrebărilor în vorbire indirectă, următoarele schimbări au loc):

- sequence of tenses (concordan a timpurilor):

Ex: John asked: “Did you see Ann?”

John asked me if I had seen Ann.

- the interrogative form of the verb changes to the affirmative form and the question mark is omitted (verbul trece de la forma interogativă la forma afirmativă si semnul întrebării dispare).

Ex: John asks : ”What does Ann want from me?’

John doesn’t know what Ann wants from him.

- the introductory verb is one of inquiry: ask, inquire, wonder, want to know (verbul din propoziția principală exprimă întrebarea: a întreba, a iscodi**,** a se întreba, a vrea să ştie)

Ex: John said: “Am I wrong?”

John wondered if he was wrong.

- for yes/no questions if or whether must be used (pentru întrebările închise, al căror răspuns poate fi da sau nu, în vorbirea indirectă conjunc ia folosită este dacă) :

Ex: He asked: ‘Are you tired?’ = He asked me if / whether I was tired.

**OTHER CHANGES IN INDIRECT SPEECH:**

(Alte schimbări care au loc în trecerea de la vorbirea directă la vorbirea indirectă):

Pronouns and possessive adjectives change according to logical links (Pronumele personale, pronumele posesive şi adjectivele posesive se schimbă în func ie de logica propozi iei):

Ex.: I said: “I will help you with your homework”.

= Eu am spus: “Te voi ajuta să î i faci tema”. I said that I would help you with your homework.

= Eu am spus că te voi ajuta să î i faci tema. He said: “I will help you with your homework.”

= El a spus: “Te va ajuta să i i faci tema”. He said to me that he would help me with my homework.

= EI a spus că mă va ajuta să îmi fac tema”. He said to her that he would help her with her homework.

= El a spus că o va ajuta să işi facă tema

I -> he, she You -> me, her, him, etc.

**Demonstrative adjectives** (Demonstrativele se modifică astfel): this -> that these -> those

Ex . He said: “I don’t like this movie’

He said that he didn’t like that movie.

- **Adverbs and adverbial phrases of time** (Adverbele de timp se modifică astfel):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Direct Speech** | **Indirect Speech** |
| today  yesterday  the day before yesterday tomorrow  the day after tomorrow next week/year/etc last week/year/etc  a year/etc ago | that day  the day before two days before  the next/following day in two days’ time  the next / the following week/year/etc the previous week/etc/ the week before a year before / the previous year |

**NOTE for advanced students: EXCEPTIONS:**

1. past/past continuous tenses used in time clauses do not normally change:

Ex.: He said: ‘When we were travelling/travelled throughout Europe....

He said that when they were travelling/ travelled throughout Europe...

2. a past tense used to describe a state of affairs which still exists when the speech is reported remains unchanged

Ex.: She said: ‘Washington Avenue is the longest street in the town”.

She said that Washington Avenue is the longest street in the town.

3. unreal past tenses (subjunctives) do not change:

Ex.: “I wished he came here soon.”, she said.

She said she wished he came there soon.

4. conditional sentences types 2 and 3 remain unchanged

Ex: “If we were older, we would marry.”, said the teenager.

The teenager said that he and his girl friend would marry if they were older.

**OTHER NOTES:** 1. In spoken English the Past Tense is often not changed into Past Perfect

Ex: He said: ‘I received a letter.’

- He said he received / had received a letter. You are not advised to use the spoken English form.

**REPORTED SPEECH - EXERCISES**

**ELEMENTARY**

1. Change the PRESENT (SIMPLE/CONTINUOUS) by the PAST TENSE (SIMPLE/ CONTINUOUS) if necessary (ÎNLOCUI I PRESENT (SIMPLE/CONTINUOUS) cu PAST TENSE (SIMPLE/CONTlNUOUS) dacă e necesar):

Examples: 1. “I have a headache because I am watching TV without my glasses.” Grandma’ **says** she has a headache because she is watching TV without her glasses.

Grandma’ **said** she had a headache because she was watching TV without her glasses.

2. “We are worried about our son because he is missing school classes.”

My parents say they .................... about me because I ................. school classes. My parents said they ....................about me because I ................. school classes.

3. “My car breaks down very often; I’m planning to sell it.”

Our cousin says that his car. ................ very often and that he .............. to sell it. Our cousin said that his car ................. very often and that he ............... to sell it.

4. “I can’t lend you the book as I am reading it now.”

My classmate says he ................. lend me the book as he ............. .......... it now. My classmate said he .................. lend me the book as he ........................ it then.

5. “I don’t know who is carrying out this project.”

The secretary says she ........................ who ................................... this project. The secretary said she ......................... who ................................... that project.

2. Change the PAST TENSE OR PRESENT PERFECT by the PAST PERFECT TENSE if necessary (înlocui i PAST TENSE OR PRESENT PERFECT CU PAST PERFECT TENSE acolo unde este necesar):

Examples: 1. ‘I had a teeth problem last year but I have never eaten hard stuffs.’ Grandma says that she had a teeth problem last year but that she has never eaten hard stuffs.

Grandma said that she had had a teeth problem a year before but that she had never eaten hard stuffs.

2. “Bill passed his examination although I haven’t seen him studying these days.”

Mother says Bill ...................his examination although she ..................., him studying these days

Mother said Bill ...........................his exam though she ............................ him studying those days.

3. “Ann has bought a car but last time I saw her she didn’t have a driving licence.”

John says Ann ........................... a car and that the last time he ............ her she .................... a driving licence.

John said Ann ....................... a car and that the last time he ................. her she

......................... a driving licence.

4. “I woke up feeling ill and so I stayed in bed as I haven’t done it for a long time.’ Tom says that he ............................ feeling ill and so he ........................... in bed as he

............................... it for a long time.

Tom said that he ............................ feeling ill and so he .......................... in bed as he

……………….. it for a long time.

3. Change the FUTURE TENSE by the FUTURE IN THE PAST If necessary (Înlocui i

FUTURE TENSE CU FUTURE IN THE PAST acolo unde este necesar) :

Examples: 1. ‘I will see a doctor tomorrow.”

Grandma’ says that she will see a doctor tomorrow. Grandma’ said that she would see a doctor the next day.

2. “I will give up my job as soon as possible.’

My neighbour says he ..............his job as soon as possible. My neighbour said he .............. his job as soon as possible.

3. “My parents will be here next week.’

Tom says that his parents ........................... here next week.

Tom said that his parents ............................ there the next week.

4. “Bob and Mary will go away for a few days but they will phone us often.”

Dad says Bob and Mary.. ................ for a few days but they .................. us often. Dad said Bob and Mary ....................for a few days but they . ................ us often.

4. Put into Reported Speech using the verb indicated (Transforma i în vorbirea indirectă

folosind verbul indicat):

1. Go away! He told us .........................................................

2. Come here! I asked him ..............................................

3. Eat it up! Tell the child ............................................

4. Pay at once! They ordered us ...............................................

5. Clean my shoes! I asked my brother ..........................................

6. Sit down! The teacher said ............................................

7. Don’t try to cheat! We were asked ...............................................

8. Don’t speak loud. They requested people ......................................

**INTERMEDIATE**

5. Complete the following sentences with **said, told** or **talked:**

1. Tom ..........................................that he didn’t like Brian

2. Jack………………………....... me that he was enjoying his new job.

3. Tom ........................... to everybody his opinion about my book.

4. They .................. a lot about many trifles. Finally they .............. nothing.

5. The doctor ................. I would have to stay indoors for at least a week.

6. Diane ........................... us she wouldn’t come to the next meeting.

7. Ann ...................... Michael she was leaving him for Bob.

8. At the meeting the chairperson ............. about the marketing problems.

9. Jane ................ I was allowed to leave earlier.

10. Don ....................... not to wait for him if he was late.

6. Put the following sentences into Reported Speech using the introducing verb:

1. Where are you going? He asked me where I was going.

…………………………………………………………………………

2. Do I look all right? She didn’t know whether she looked all right.

…………………………………………………………………………

3. How : did you do that? They wanted to know

…………………………………………………………………………

.4. Who will come with me? He wondered

…………………………………………………………………………

5. When will my dress be finished? She enquired

…………………………………………………………………………

6. Has Bill helped you? She was curious to know

…………………………………………………………………………

7. Which book are you taking? He urged me to say

…………………………………………………………………………

8. Are you enjoying yourself? He politely asked me

…………………………………………………………………………

9. Did Tom give Jane that ring? He wondered

…………………………………………………………………………

10. Who showed you my work? He asked me straight

…………………………………………………………………………

7. Tell a friend of yours what Charlie, a common friend, told you a few days before. Use the SEQUENCE OF TENSES and the other rules of INDIRECT SPEECH to change the underlined words:

1. I’m thinking of going to live in Canada.”

Charlie said that he was thinking of going to live in Canada.

2. “My father is in hospital.”

Charlie said that.............................................................................

3. My sister and her boyfriend are getting married next month.

…………………………………………………………………………

4. I haven’t seen you for a while.

…………………………………………………………………………

5. I have been playing tennis a lot these days.

…………………………………………………………………………

6. Tom had an accident last week but he wasn’t injured.

…………………………………………………………………………

7. I will be glad to spend the next holidays with you in London.

…………………………………………………………………………

8. I saw Mary at a party a few months ago but she didn’t want to speak to me.

…………………………………………………………………………

9. I will go home and I am going to support my mother with her exhibition.

…………………………………………………………………………

10. I’m sorry I reacted this way at your words.

…………………………………………………………………………

**ADVANCED**

8. Match each report 1) to 10) with the actual words spoken from a) to j):

1. Jim admitted that he might have taken it.

2. Sue denied that she had taken it

3. Harry doubted whether he had taker:

4. Diana explained that she had taken it.

a) No, I’ve definitely taken it b) I don’t think I took it.

c) Don’t worry, I’ve taken it. It’s all right!

d) What about me? Perhaps I took it?

5. Bill insisted he had taken it.

6. Mary suggested that she had taken it.

7. Ted confirmed he had taken it.

8. Ruth claimed that she had taken it.

9. Charles repeated that he had taken it.

10. Sally reassured us that she had taken it.

e) OK, perhaps I did take it after all. f) Yes, I took it. I took it, I tell you. g) Yes, that’s quite correct. I took it.

h) No, I certainly didn’t take it. I can assure you. i) You may not believe me, but actually I took it. j) You see, it’s like this. I’ve taken it.

9. Rewrite each sentence in indirect speech beginning as shown:

1 “I wouldn’t cook the fish for too long, Bill, if I were you”, said Jean.

Jean advised Bill……………………………………………………………

2. “Helen, would you like to come to lunch on Sunday?” said Mary.

Mary…………………………………………………………………………

3. Well, in the end l think I’ll take the brown pair, said the customer.

The customer finally..………………………………………………………

2. ‘Me? No, I didn’t take Sue’s calculator”, said Bob.

Bob denied..…………………………………………………………………

5. “Don’t forget to buy some milk, Andy’, said Clare.

Clare reminded………………………………………………………………

6. “Look, I might not be able to come on Saturday’, said David

David told us………………………………………………….……………

7. “Why don’t you go and see ‘The Sound of Music’ again, Brian?”, I said.

I suggested …………………………………………………………………

8. “No, you really must stay the night, Sophia”, Ann said.

Ann insisted…………………………………………………………………

9. “Make sure you don’t take a fine in the rush hour, Tim.”, said Jack.

Jack warned…………………………………………………………………

10. “You are not allowed to smoke in your room, Dan”, said his mother.

Dan’s mother………………………………………………………………