

## REPORTED/ INDIRECT SPEECH

### Summary of tense changes:

- Tenses are moved into the past after the reporting word in the past tense. The past perfect remains the same.

*I'm leaving.*          *Jane said she was leaving*  
*I'll go there.*        *Susan said she would go there.*  
*I was there.*         *Peter said he had been there.*  
*No, I hadn't forgotten.* *Greg said he hadn't forgotten*

- In complex sentences, only the first verb is changed.

*I was walking home when I saw the accident.*  
*James said he had been walking home when he saw the accident.*

- Some words referring to persons, places and time change in indirect speech, because the point of reference changes.

*I'll see you here tomorrow, Jack.*  
*Mary told Jack she would see him there the next day.*  
*I gave you this yesterday.*  
*John said he had given it to her the day before.*

- If the reported words are `always true` or the message is repeated immediately, there is no change.

*Harry told me that he still likes you.*  
*Mary said she's too busy to come.*

- In questions there is no inversion

*Where are we going?*          *I asked Sue where we were going.*  
*Do you like hamburgers?*      *Charles asked me if I liked*  
*hamburgers.*

- Embedded questions:

*Could you tell me where the station is?*  
*I asked him where the station was.*

- Commands are reported with tell and the infinitive.

*Go away!*                    *He told me to go away.*

- Requests are reported with ask and the infinitive.

*Please help me.*            *He asked her to help him.*