

## Revision “Reported speech year 8”: statements, yes/no-questions, questions with question words and commands or requests.

Here are the rules again:

### I. Statements

When the introductory or reporting verb is in the past tense, verbs in the reported speech are changed as follows:

Direct		Indirect
Present	⇒	past
Past	⇒	past perfect
present perfect	⇒	past perfect
will-future	⇒	would + infinitive
going to-future	⇒	was/were going to + infinitive
can, may	⇒	could, might

This change is called “**backshift of tenses**”.

However, if the reporting verb is in the present tense, there is no change of tense!

### Other changes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person pronouns are changed to 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronouns.
- This/these* become *that/those*.
- Adverbs of time and place change too.

here	⇒	there
today	⇒	that day
yesterday	⇒	the day before
tomorrow	⇒	the next/following day
next week	⇒	the following week
last month	⇒	the previous month
a year ago	⇒	the previous year/the year before

### II. Yes/no-questions in indirect speech:

- Backshift of tenses when the reporting verb is in the past tense.
- The question is introduced with *if* or *whether* (“ob”).
- Word order is the same as in statements. (SPO)

### III. Questions with question word (when, what, where, etc)

- Backshift of tenses
- Question word stays in the sentence.
- No “do/does/did”.
- Word order is the same as in statements. (SPO)

### IV. Commands and requests

- Backshift of tenses
- Introductory verb is usually “to tell s.o. to do sth./not to do sth.”
- Introductory verb is usually “to ask s.o. to do sth./not to do sth.”.

- V. “**that**” can usually be omitted after ‘*said*’ and ‘*told s.b.*’ but should be kept after other verbs.

**Sam Smith, his brother Tim and their parents have moved to the small town of Appleton, Wisconsin.**

**Sam:** "I've got some good news. My dream has come true. We have moved to Appleton, Wisconsin. And my friend Helen will write to me. She promised. She'll come and see me up here some time soon. We can go to the lake or go hiking. The countryside is absolutely gorgeous."

**Tim:** "I'm sure I will like it here. I'm going to play on the basketball team of my new school. And in the evenings I can go out here. I don't need a car. I can get everywhere on foot or by bike."

**Mrs. Smith:** "The countryside is so beautiful. I like it here. And we can go skiing or ice-skating in winter. In summer I could even learn how to play golf."

We have almost finished moving into our new house. My new school is great. I like the students here. We've got nice shopping malls here, too. No need to go to the big cities and get stuck in traffic jams."

**Mr. Smith:** "I like my new job too. I went on a workshop in order to learn how to design new products. It was very interesting. Next month I will go on a short business trip to Chicago, which is not very far from here. I have made all the arrangements."

**Tim:** "Where will you stay in Chicago? Can we come along sometime? Somebody told me that Chicago is a beautiful and very interesting city? Have you heard about the gangsters they had there in the 1930's?"

**Mr. Smith:** "Of course I have. Chicago was famous, or rather infamous, for its gangsters like Al Capone. Where did you hear about that story?"

**Mrs. Smith:** "I just hope it isn't as dangerous anymore as in the 1930's. When are you going to leave? And when will you be back? Are you going to stay at a hotel? Leave your address for me please."

Actually, I have an old friend in Chicago. Why don't you stay with her? I could call her and tell her about your trip."

**Report this dialog. Put the introductory verb into the past, change the verb forms etc. according to the rules above. Start like this:**

Sam said (that) he **had got** some good news and that his dream ....

**MORE HELP!** Here are all the correct verb forms, but not in a chronological order! You might want to use them for your text in reported speech.

1. had come
2. didn't need
3. could get
4. liked (3x)
5. could learn
6. had finished
7. had got (2x)
8. had gone
9. had been (2x)
10. would go
11. had made
12. had moved
13. would stay
14. they could come
15. had told
16. had heard (2x)

17. had had
18. had (2x)
19. hoped
20. wasn't
21. would be
22. to leave
23. would write
24. didn't stay
25. could call
26. had promised
27. would come
28. could go (3x)
29. was (7x)
30. would like
31. was going to (3x)
32. could tell