

What is Reported Speech with Tense Agreement?

Worksheet

Reported speech converts direct quotes to indirect form with automatic tense backshift. 'I love it' → 'She said she loved it': present tense shifts to past tense one level back.

Questions

1. Direct: 'I am tired.' Reported: 'He said...'

- A) he said he is tired
- B) he said he was tired
- C) he said he will be tired
- D) he said he has been tired

2. Which sentence correctly reports: 'I have seen the movie'?

- A) She said she has seen it
- B) She said she saw it
- C) She said she had seen it
- D) She said she sees it

3. Direct: 'Will you help me?' Reported: 'I asked if...'

- A) will help
- B) would help
- C) helped
- D) have helped

4. When does tense NOT backshift in reported speech?

- A) always shifts
- B) never shifts
- C) when stating universal truths
- D) when using 'said'

5. Direct: 'I am happy.' Report this using 'Sarah said...'

6. Direct: 'I have finished the homework.' Report using 'John told me...'

7. Direct: 'I will come tomorrow.' Report using 'She said...'

8. Define: What is reported speech?

9. Define: Present → ? in reported speech

10. Define: Past perfect in reported speech — when used?

Answer Key

1. B) he said he was tired — Present 'am' shifts to past 'was' in reported speech.
2. C) She said she had seen it — Present perfect shifts to past perfect 'had seen' in reported speech.
3. B) would help — Future 'will' shifts to conditional 'would' in reported questions.
4. C) when stating universal truths — Permanent facts: 'The Earth orbits the sun,' he said. → present stays present.
5. Original tense: present (am) Reported tense: shift to past (was) Result: Sarah said she was happy.
6. Original tense: present perfect (have finished) Reported tense: shift to past perfect (had finished) Result: John told me he had finished the homework.
7. Original tense: future (will come) Reported tense: shift to conditional (would come) Result: She said she would come the next day.
8. A way to describe what someone said indirectly, with automatic tense backshift — 'I love it' → 'She said she loved it'.
9. Present shifts to past. 'I am here' → 'He said he was here'.
10. When the original is past simple or present perfect. Shows an earlier action.

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