

# REPORTED SPEECH TENSE CONVERSION RULES

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
"I <u>want</u> a holiday" (Present Simple)	She told me she <u>wanted</u> a holiday (Past Simple)
"Bob <u>is annoying</u> me" (Present Continuous)	Jane said Bob <u>was annoying</u> her (Past Continuous)
"I <u>have eaten</u> too much" (Present Perfect)	He said he <u>had eaten</u> too much (Past Perfect)
"The class <u>has been interesting</u> " (Present Perfect Continuous)	Anne said the class <u>had been interesting</u> (Past Perfect Continuous)
"I <u>saw</u> her arrive" (Past Simple)	He told me he <u>had seen</u> her arrive (Past Perfect)
"The team <u>were playing</u> well" (Past Continuous)	John said the team <u>had been playing</u> well (Past Perfect Continuous)
"I <u>had arrived</u> before 9am" (Past Perfect)	She said she <u>had arrived</u> before 9am (NO CHANGE)
"We <u>had already been dating</u> for 3 years" (Past Perfect Continuous)	Mick told me they <u>had already been dating</u> for 3 years (NO CHANGE)
"I <u>will</u> take you out tonight" (will)	He said he <u>would</u> take me out tonight (would)
"I <u>can</u> easily pass the test" (can)	She said she <u>could</u> easily pass the test (could)
"You <u>must</u> leave immediately" (must)	He told me I <u>had to</u> leave immediately (had to)
"We <u>may</u> go out later" (may)	She said they <u>might</u> go out later (might)
"You <u>ought to</u> come at 7pm" (ought to)	He told me I <u>ought to</u> come at 7pm (NO CHANGE)
"I <u>should</u> have helped you" (should)	He said he <u>should</u> have helped me (NO CHANGE)
"I <u>would</u> walk the dog at night" (would)	She said she <u>would</u> walk the dog at night (NO CHANGE)
"You <u>couldn't</u> do it" (could)	"He told me I <u>couldn't</u> do it" (NO CHANGE)
"I <u>might</u> arrive late" (might)	He said he <u>might</u> arrive late (NO CHANGE)