

## Reported speech

**9.3** When we report somebody else's words, the tense of the verb usually changes.

Direct speech	Reported speech
Present simple →	Past simple
'I don't like dogs,' Ben said.	Ben said (that) he didn't like dogs.
'My dad is at work,' Becky said.	Becky said (that) her dad was at work.
Present continuous →	Past continuous
'He's wearing a blue top,' Michelle said.	Michelle said (that) he was wearing a blue top.
Past simple →	Past perfect
'We moved to London in 2000,' Phil said.	Phil said (that) they had moved to London in 2000.

It is not necessary to use *that* in reported speech.

**9.4** The pronouns sometimes change, depending on the context.

'My name's Jill,' she said.  
She said that her name was Jill.

'We went to the cinema,' Mark said.  
Mark said that they had gone to the cinema.

'I'll meet you after school,' Becky said.  
Becky said she'd meet me after school.

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