

REPORTED SPEECH, INDIRECT QUESTIONS

Tense changes

Speaker's words	Reported speech
present simple	→ past simple
present continuous	→ past continuous
present perfect simple	→ past perfect simple
present perfect continuous	→ past perfect continuous
past simple	→ past perfect simple
past continuous	→ past perfect continuous
past perfect	→ past perfect
going to future	→ was going to
shall/will	→ would
shall in offers and suggestions	→ should
must	→ had to
can	→ could

Time and place changes

It is often necessary to change time, place and other references in reported speech, depending on when and where the reporting takes place in relation to the actual words.

Some common changes

now	→ then
tonight	→ that night
yesterday	→ the day before/on + name of day
tomorrow	→ the following day/the next day/on + name of day
this morning	→ that morning
last week	→ the previous week
next Saturday	→ the following Saturday
ago	→ before/previously
here	→ there
this + the place	→ that/the + the place
this	→ that/the

Exercise 4 Put into indirect speech:

Dejte do nepřímé řeči:

- I knew: "She wasn't at home." *I knew she hadn't been at home.*
- He thought: "He did it well."
- She promised: "I will do it."
- We saw: "She is driving fast."
- We knew: "It will happen again."
- She said: "We don't want to be here."
- I was afraid: "I will not understand."
- He said: "I have never been there."
- I was sure: "She can do it well."
- He felt: "There's something wrong."
- We promised: "We will start on time."
- We remembered: "We have seen him before."

Exercise 5 Change the questions into indirect speech:

Dejte otázky do nepřímé řeči:

- I wanted to know: "What time is it?" *I wanted to know what time it was.*
- She asked: "Where are you going, children?"
- We wondered: "What's happened?"
- He asked her: "How many people have you invited?"
- We wanted to know: "Who is that man?"
- She asked: "Do you live here?"
- I wondered: "Do you have to go to work on Saturdays, Tom?"
- They asked: "Why didn't you help us?"
- The teacher asked: "Why are you so late, Ann?"
- They wondered: "Were there many people in the shop?"
- I asked: "Is she still alive?"
- He asked: "When will you finish your house, Bob?"

Exercise 6 Change the imperatives into indirect speech:

Dejte rozkazy do nepřímé řeči:

- Don't be late. *I was asked not to be late.*
- Say it again.
- Do it for me.
- Don't stop me.
- Come tomorrow.
- Stay behind the door.
- Don't ask about it.
- Don't look out of the window.
- Explain it to me.
- Take the children with you.