Reported Speech

Reported Speech Functions

Used to report the original quote for accuracy and clarity.

• Example - He said: "I am not a crook." - He said he was not a crook.

Tense Shift

Present Simple - Past Simple

• "I am late." - She said she was late.

Past Simple - Past Perfect

• "I was late." - She said she had been late.

Present Perfect - Past Perfect

• "I have been late." - She said she had been late.

Present Continuous - Past Continuous

• "I am running late." - She said she was running late.

Past Continuous - Past Perfect Continuous

• "I was running late." - She said she had been running late.

Past Perfect - Past Perfect (Stays the same)

• "I had been late." - She said she had been late.

Modal Shift

Will - Would

• "I will go later." - She said she would go later.

Would - Would

• "I would go later." - She said she would go later.

Can- Could

• "I can go later." - She said she could go later.

Could - Could (Stays the same)

• "I could go later." - She said she could go later.

May - Might

• "I may go later." - She said she might go later.

Might - Might

• "I might go later." - She said she might go later.

Shall - Should

• "I shall come later." - She said she should come later.

Should - Should (Stays the same)

• "I should come later." - She said she should come later.

Must - Had to

• "I must come later." - She said she had to come later.

Pronoun Shift

• There are no fixed rules for Pronoun Shift.

- Depends on the logical Pronoun.
- Example "I will come later." She said she would come later. (For example)
- Example "We will come later." They said they would come later. (For example)

Possessive Pronouns

My - His/Her

• "That's my car." - He said that was his car.

Our - Our/Their

• "That's our car." - We said that was our car/They said that was their car.

Mine - His/hers

• "That car is mine." - She said that the car was hers.

Time Shift

Now - Then

• "I will go now." - She said she would go then.

Today - Yesterday/That day/Tuesday etc

• "I would go today." - She said she would go that day.

Yesterday - The day before/the previous day etc

• "I went yesterday." - She said she had gone the previous day.

Last week/Last night - The previous week/the week before

- "I was there last week." She said she had been there the week before.
- "I was there last night." She said she had been there the previous night.

Tomorrow - The next day/The following day

• "I will go tomorrow." - She said she would go the next day.

Place Shift

Here - There

• "I am here today." - She said she was there that day.

There - Here

• "I'll be there tomorrow." - She said she would be there the following day.