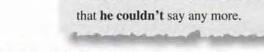
68 Reported statements

Our members voted earlier today. The result will be available later this afternoon. I can't say any more than that.

The union leader said that **their** members **had voted** earlier and that the result **would be** available later in the afternoon, but he added that **he couldn't** say any more.



Reporting speech

When we repeat another person's words, we can use direct speech or reported speech.

- For direct speech, we use the exact words and we put quotation marks ("") or inverted commas (") around them:
 - 'I'm really hungry because I haven't eaten since breakfast,' said Annabel.
- When we report speech with a reporting verb (e.g. say) in the present, we use the same tenses, but we have to change the pronouns and verb forms when necessary:

 Annabel says (that) she's really hungry because she hasn't eaten since breakfast.
- When we report another person's words some time after he/she said them, we usually
 use a past tense verb to introduce them, and we change the tense of the verbs as well:
 Annabel said (that) she was really hungry because she hadn't eaten since breakfast.
- We can use that after said but we often leave it out: Jake said he would meet us here.

2 Tense changes in reported speech

ORIGINAL WORDS	REPORTED STATEMENT
Present simple: 'We work for the town council.'	Past simple: → They said they worked for the town council.
Present continuous: "I'm doing the washing.	Past continuous: → She said she was doing the washing.
Past simple: 'We decided to leave earlier today.'	Past perfect: → He said they had decided to leave earlier that day.
Past continuous: 'I wasn't telling the truth.'	Past perfect continuous: → She admitted she hadn't been telling the truth.
Present perfect simple: 'My guests haven't arrived yet.'	Past perfect simple: → She said her guests hadn't arrived yet.
Present perfect continuous: 'We've been waiting for ages!'	Past perfect continuous: → They complained (that) they had been waiting for ages
be going to: 'They're going to stay at home tonight.'	was/were going to: → They said they were going to stay at home that night.
Most modal verbs (e.g. can, will, must): 'I can't say any more.' 'The result will be available later.' 'You must stop writing!'	could, would, had to; → He added that he couldn't say any more. → He said that the result would be available later. → She said we had tolmust stop writing.

Some verb forms don't change.

- Past perfect: 'I hadn't met your sister before.' → He said (that) he hadn't met my sister before.
- Modal verbs could, would, should and mustn't:
 'We could go to France for the day.' → Len suggested (that) we could go to France for the day.
 'You mustn't talk during the exam.' → He insisted (that) we mustn't talk during the exam.