

4 Changes and additions with adverbs

If the place or time of reporting is significantly different from that in the original speech, we often need to make changes to adverbs of place and time:

now → then here → there today → that day tomorrow → the next day
yesterday → the day before ago → before last Monday → the last/previous Monday

Alex said, 'I'll meet you **here** again **tomorrow** at 3.30.'

Alex said **she would** meet **us there** again **the next day** at 3.30.

But if the statement is reported on the same day and in the same place, we would say:

Alex said **she will/would** meet **us here** again **tomorrow** at 3.30.

He finished by announcing that the cremation **will take place** on Saturday in Delhi ...

We often use adverbs in reported speech to indicate HOW the original words were said:

'Jewellery is not allowed!' → She told us **very sharply** that jewellery wasn't allowed.

'Oh, add my name if you must.' → Dad **reluctantly** agreed that we could add his name.

5 Modal verbs

Ought to, used to, could, might, would, need and should do not change in reported speech:

'You ought to listen to your father.' → Mum told me that I **ought to** listen to my father.

'You needn't stay if you don't want to.' → My boss said I **needn't** stay if I didn't want to.

But we need to make changes to other modal verbs:

'The new law will be in place soon.' → She said the new law **would** be in place soon.

'Publication may be delayed.' → The editor said that publication **might** be delayed.

'Julian can't have written the letter.' → I told them Julian **couldn't have** written the letter.

Shall becomes *would* when it refers to the future, but *should* when it is a suggestion:

'I shall tell them everything.' → I decided I **would** tell them everything.

'Shall we tell the manager?' → She suggested that they **should** tell the manager.

We can use both *must* and *had to* in reported speech:

'You must lose twenty kilos!' → The doctor said that I **must/had to** lose twenty kilos.

'They must have finished.' → We thought that they **must/had to** have finished.

6 Reporting with nouns

As well as reporting speech with a reporting verb, we can use a noun + *that* to report someone's words when we want to add more information:

PRIME MINISTER *The recession will soon be over.*

→ *The Prime Minister **said** that the recession would soon be over.*

→ *The Prime Minister's **statement that the recession would soon be over** was ridiculed by the Opposition.*

KENNY *You should try the new Chinese restaurant. It's excellent.*

→ *Kenny **recommended** that we try the new Chinese restaurant.*

→ *What did you think of Kenny's **recommendation that we try the new Chinese restaurant?***

We do not usually leave out *that* after reporting nouns:

MORE EXAMPLES admission advice allegation announcement answer argument assertion
claim comment complaint denial explanation forecast point remark response suggestion



X *The Prime Minister's statement the recession would soon be over was ridiculed by the Opposition.*

More on use of nouns (nominalisation) ► Unit 78.1