

Key - reported speech

Consider the following examples which all relate to Tom and Julia's engagement party and change the tenses:

TASK 1:

- A: **Are you going** to Tom and Julia's engagement party?
- B: I asked him if **he was going** to Tom and Julia's engagement party.
- A: **Can you** pick me up from the station?
- B: I wondered whether **they might be able** to pick me up from the station.
- C: **Who's that girl** in the red dress, Tom?
- C: I asked Tom **who that girl** in the red dress **was**.
- A: How **did you make** that salad, Julie?
- A: I asked Julie how **she had made** the salad.
- B: How much wine **have you brought**, Mike?
- B: I wanted to know how much wine **Mike had brought**.
- D: **We're getting married** on 4 July and **have bought** a house in Manchester.
- A: They explained that **they were getting married** on 4 July and **had bought** a house in Manchester.

*The final example relates to a point in time which is **still in the future** even when the original speech is reported. No tense change is also possible:*

*They explained that **they're getting married** on 4 July and **have bought** a house in Manchester.*

With reference to the future, consider the way **I love you** is reported in these examples and the way in which the meaning changes depending on how it is reported:

- He **told me** that **he loved me**.... But I **now** know that he was lying.
- He **has told me** that he **loves me**.... And I think that may be true.

TASK 2: Direct: He said, 'I am too weak to work **now**.'

Indirect: He said that he was too weak to work **then**.

Direct: She said, 'I will leave for New York **tomorrow**.'

Indirect: She said that she would leave for New York **the next day**.

Direct: He said, 'I visited them **yesterday**.'

Indirect: He said that he had visited them **the previous day**.

Direct: She said, 'I liked **this** bag.'

Indirect: She said that she liked **that** bag.

Direct: I said, 'I am leaving **tomorrow**.'

Indirect: She said that she was leaving **the next day**.

Direct: She said, '**These** mangoes are rotten.'

Indirect: She said that **those** mangoes were rotten.

Direct: He said, '**These** are our dogs.'

Indirect: He said that **those** were their dogs.

TASK 3: Complete each sentence in such a way that it is similar to the meaning of the sentence above:

1. Professor to her students: "Please do not eat or drink during lectures".
The professor asked **the students not to drink during lectures**.
2. Guard to the prisoner: "Stand up when the judge comes in."
The guard ordered **the prisoner to stand up when the judge comes/came in**.
3. Worker to his boss: "Can I leave earlier on Friday?"
The worker asked **if he could leave earlier on Friday**.
4. Paul's mother to Paul: "You should apply to several universities."
Paul's mother recommended **him to apply to several universities**.
5. "You should take the express train."
6. He suggested that **I should take the express train. /no shift/**
7. "You must be careful."
She warned them **to be careful**.