

The sequence of tenses



Direct speech

She says :

“ I’m reading a book now ”.

the author’s
word

Direct speech

the Complex sentence
in indirect speech

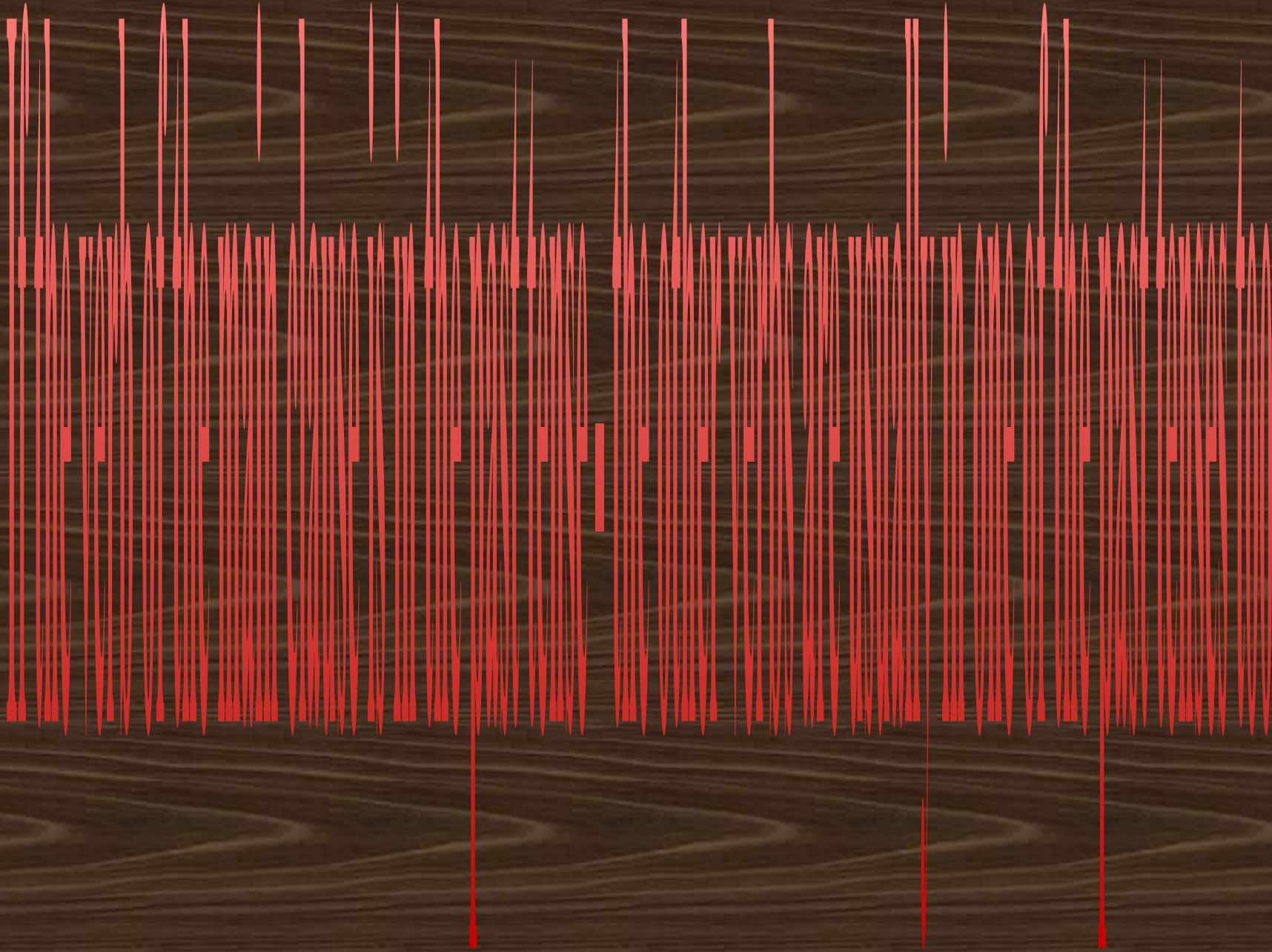


She told me that

She was reading the book then

the main
clause

the subordinate
clause



Indirect speech follows the rules of the Sequence of tenses.

We change pronouns and adverbial modifiers according to the meaning and we use sequence of tenses. We don't use any punctuations.

HE SAYS: “ I’LL BE THERE AT 10”

HE TOLD THAT HE ’LD BE THERE AT 10

The complex sentence consists of the “main” clause and one or more “subordinate” clauses.

The main clause	The subordinate clause				
Present Indefinite	Present Indefinite	Present Continuous	Present Perfect	Past Indefinite	Future Indefinite
	Past Indefinite	Past Continuous	Past Perfect	Past Perfect	Future in the Past

○ Present Indefinite

I **do** ...

○ Present Continuous

He **is doing** ...

○ Present Perfect

I **have done** ...

○ Past Indefinite

I **did** ...

○ Past Continuous

I **was doing** ...

○ Past Perfect

I **had gone** ...



○ Past Indefinite

I **did** ...



○ Past Continuous

He **was doing** ...



○ Past Perfect

I **had done** ...



○ Past Perfect

I **had done** ...




○ Past Perfect Continuous

I **had been doing** ...

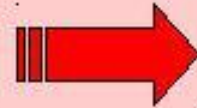


○ does not change

I **had gone** ...

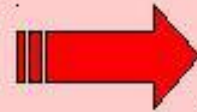


○ **will** (future)



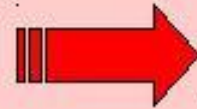
○ **would**

○ **can**



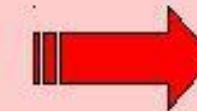
○ **could**

○ **may**



○ **might**

○ **must**



○ **must or had to**

Indirect speech

Special questions

DIRECT SPEECH

"WHAT DID YOU DO
YESTERDAY?"

"WHEN WILL YOU
COME HOME?"

"WHO WON THE
GAME?"

INDIRECT SPEECH

HE ASKED ME WHAT I
HAD DONE THE DAY
BEFORE.

SHE ASKED ME WHEN I
WOULD COME HOME.

ANN ASKED ME WHO
HAD WON THE GAME.

INDIRECT SPEECH

IMPERATIVE SENTENCES

Put into Indirect speech by the verb **Tell smb/ ask smb** by infinitive **“to”**

He said: "Press the red button!"

► He told me to press the red button.

She said: "Don't answer the phone now!"

► she asked me not to answer the phone then.

In indirect speech in negative sentences we use “**not**” before the infinitive “**to**”

He says: “don’t smoke”

He told me not to smoke.

Teacher says: “don’t look”

Teacher told her not to look.

Present Simple

I m a teacher.

Past Simple

He said (that) he was a teacher

Present Progressive

I m having lunch with my parents.

Past Progressive

He said (that) he was having lunch with his parents.

Past Simple

I bought a new car.

Past Perfect

He said (that) he had bought a new car.

Future Simple

I will go to the cinema.

Future-in-the-Past

He said (that) he would go to the cinema.

Present Perfect










I 've been to France three times.

Past Perfect

He said (that) he had been to France three times.

The main clause

The subordinate clause

Present  	Present Indefinite V1, Vs (he, she, it) 	Present Continuous I am You, we, are } V4 he(she, it) 	Present Perfect have V3 has V3 	Past Indefinite V ed, V2 	Future Indefinite will V1 
Past 	Past Indefinite <i>Ved, V2</i>	Past Continuous <i>Was</i> } V4 <i>were</i> } 	Past Perfect <i>had V3</i>	Past Perfect <i>had V3</i>	Future in the Past <i>would V1</i>



Write the following sentences in Indirect speech using the Sequence of tenses

- 1. Roger said: “My uncle has been here more than once”.**
- 2. Alice asked me: “Did you spend much time there?”**
- 3. Ben asked me : “When did you join our circle?”**
- 4. She said : “Our group has worked in the lab today”.**
- 5. Bill said: “I remember she was good at singing “.**
- 6. The mother asked her son: “Why have you spent so much money on sweets?”**
- 7. Fanny asked her friend: “Where did you go during your vocation?”**

8. He says: “I am sure she will come in time”.

9. She says: “I shall be able to read English newspapers without a dictionary in a year”.

10. They say: “We shan’t go to the Institute on Sunday”.