

GUIDE TO REPORTED SPEECH IN SPANISH



DIRECT VS INDIRECT SPEECH IN SPANISH

DIRECT SPEECH

Quotes someone's exact words.



Lily dijo: "Voy a la oficina".

Lily said: "Do your homework".

INDIRECT SPEECH

Reports what someone said.



Lily said que iba a la tienda.

Lily said that she was going to the store.

HOW REPORTED SPEECH WORKS IN SPANISH

ORIGINAL STATEMENT



Le compré una blusa a Tina.
I bought a blouse for Tina.

REPORTED SPEECH



Claudia dijo que te compró una blusa.
Claudia said that she bought you a blouse.

Note: the pronouns change because Betty is directly addressing and informing Tina.

REPORTED SPEECH: BACKSHIFTING VERBS

Original Tense	Backshifted	Direct S. Example	Reported S. Example
Present indicative	Imperfect tense	“No puedo ir.”	Dijo que podía venir.
Preterite	Past perfect	“Ya compró todo.”	Dijo que ya habías comprado todo.
Present perfect	Past perfect	“No he comido nada.”	Dijo que no había comido nada.
Future simple	Conditional	“Llegaré a las 2.”	Dijo que llegaría a las 2.
Imperative	Present subjunctive	“Cierra la puerta.”	Dijo que cierres la puerta.
Present subjunctive	Imperfect subjunctive	“Quiero que venga.”	Dijo que quería que vinieras.

LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[Reported Speech Spanish Guide: Examples + Verb Changes](#)

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