

1. Sequence of Tenses (時制의 일치) - English Grammar Rules

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The sequence of Tenses are the principles which govern the tense of the verb in subordinate clause vis-à-vis the tense of the verb in the principal clause. The rules which determine the tense of the subordinate clause if the tense of the principal clause is Present or Past or Future, is called Sequence of Tense.

[* vis-à-vis : prep. ~에 대하여,~에 관하여

Britian's role vis-à-vis the United States 미국에 대한 영국의 역할]

Rules 1.

1. If the principal clause is in the Past tense the subordinate clause should also be in the Past.

* E.g./e.g. [i'dʒi:] (라틴어 *exempli gratia*를 줄인 것.)

[e.g. is an abbreviation that means 'for example 예를 들어'.] :

E.g.:

- My father assured me that he would buy a bike for me.
- He failed because he didn't work hard.

Exceptions

1. A Past Tense in the principal clause may be followed by a Present Tense in the subordinate clause when the subordinate clause expresses a universal truth, mathematical calculation, historical fact, moral guidelines, habitual fact or something that has not yet changed. In such cases, the tense of the subordinate clause is not governed by the tense of Principal clause. (The subordinate clause is usually in Present tense in such cases).

E.g.:

- He said that the earth revolves around the sun.
- We learnt at school that the truth always triumphs.

2. If a subordinate clause is introduced by a conjunction of comparison such as: than, as well as, etc. in such cases, a Past Tense in the principal clause may be followed by any Tense in the subordinate clause as per the sense of the statement. Furthermore, any tense in the Principal clause can be followed by any tense in the subordinate clause.

[* as per something : (이미 결정된) ~에 따라

The work was carried out as per instructions. 그 작업은 지시에 따라 수행되었다.]

E.g.:

- He loved me more than he loved you.
- He loved me more than he loves you.
- He loved me more than he will love you.
- He will love you more than he loved me.

- He has loved you more than he loved me.
- He will love you more than he loves me.
- She helps you as well as she helped me.

3. If the subordinate clause is an adjective clause, in that case, it may be in any tense even the principal clause in Past tense.

E.g.:

- I visited the place where the accident took place.
- I visited the village where he lives.
- I visited the hotel where he will stay.

Rule 2.

A Present or Future Tense in the Principal clause may be followed by any tense.

E.g.:

- He says that she passed the examination.
- He says that she will come tomorrow.
- Ram says that he likes that girl.
- Ram will say that Sita is a beautiful girl.
- Ram will say that he didn't like that girl.
- He will say that he will pass the examination positively.

Exceptions

If the subordinate clause is introduced by if, till, as soon as, when, unless, before, until, even, if, as, etc. and the Principal clause is in Simple Future, in that case, the verb in subordinate clause must be in Simple Present.

[* 조건과 미래의 부사절에서는 현재가 미래를 대신한다.]

E.g.:

- We shall not go to market if it rains.
- He will wait till she comes.

2. Speech (화법, 話法)

Direct Speech (직접화법) | Indirect Speech (간접화법)

Tense Change | Time Change | Pronoun Change

Reporting Verbs | Use of 'That'

We often have to give information about what people say or think. In order to do this you can use direct or quoted speech, or indirect or reported speech.

2-1. Direct Speech (Quoted Speech)

Saying exactly what someone has said is called direct speech (sometimes called quoted speech).

Here what a person says appears within quotation marks ("...") and should be word for word.

[* word for word : 정확히 말한[글자] 그대로

She repeated their conversation word for word to me.

그녀는 그들이 한 말을 정확히 글자 그대로 나에게 전했다.]

E.g.:

○ She said, "Today's lesson is on presentations."

or

"Today's lesson is on presentations," she said.

2-2. Indirect Speech (Reported Speech)

Indirect speech (sometimes called reported speech), doesn't use quotation marks to enclose what the person said and it doesn't have to be word for word.

When reporting speech, the tense usually changes. This is because when we use reported speech, we are usually talking about a time in the past (because obviously the person who spoke originally spoke in the past). The verbs therefore usually have to be in the past too.

E.g.:

Direct speech/ Indirect speech

○ "I'm going to the cinema," he said.

He said he was going to the cinema.

2-3. Tense change

As a rule when you report something, someone has said you go back a tense.

Direct speech / Indirect speech

E.g.:

○ She said, "It's cold."

She said it was cold.

○ She said, "I'm teaching English online."

She said she was teaching English online.

○ She said, "I've been on the web since 1999."

She said she had been on the web since 1999.

○ She said, "I've been teaching English for seven years."

She said she had been teaching English for seven years.

○ She said, "I taught online yesterday."

She said she had taught online yesterday.

○ She said, "I was teaching earlier."

She said she had been teaching earlier.

○ She said, "The lesson had already started when he arrived." > Past perfect

NO CHANGE - She said the lesson had already started when he arrived.

- She said, "I'd already been teaching for five minutes."

NO CHANGE - She said she'd already been teaching for five minutes.

2-4. Modal verb forms also sometimes change:

will › would

E.g.:

- She said, "I'll teach English online tomorrow."

She said she would teach English online tomorrow.

can › could

E.g.:

- She said, "I can teach English online."

She said she could teach English online.

must › had to

E.g.:

- She said, "I must have a computer to teach English online." › had to

She said she had to have a computer to teach English online.

shall › should

E.g.:

- She said, "What shall we learn today?"

She asked what we should learn today.

may › might

E.g.:

- She said, "May I open a new browser?" › might

She asked if she might open a new browser.

Note - There is no change to: could, would, should, might and ought to.

E.g.:

- "I might go to the cinema", he said. He said he might go to the cinema.

You can use the present tense in reported speech if you want to say that something is still true i.e. my name has always been and will always be Lynne so:-

"My name is Lynne", she said.

She said her name was Lynne.

or

She said her name is Lynne.

You can also use the present tense if you are talking about a future event.

Direct speech (exact quote)

Indirect speech (not exact)

"Next week's lesson is on reported speech", she said.

She said next week's lesson will be on reported speech.

2-5. Time change

If the reported sentence contains an expression of time, you must change it to fit

in with the time of reporting.

We need to change words like here and yesterday if they have different meanings at the time and place of reporting.

Now › yesterday

+ 24 hours - Indirect speech

E.g.:

◦ She said, "Today's lesson is on presentations."

She said yesterday's lesson was on presentations.

or

She said yesterday's lesson would be on presentations.

Expressions of time if reported on a different day

this (evening) › that (evening)

today › yesterday ...

these (days) › those (days)

now › then

(a week) ago › (a week) before

last weekend › the weekend before last / the previous weekend

here › there

next (week) › the following (week)

tomorrow › the next/following day

2-6. In addition if you report something that someone said in a different place to where you heard it you must change the place (here) to the place (there).

At work › At home

E.g.:

She asked, "How long have you worked here?"

She asked me how long I'd worked there.

2-7. Pronoun change

In reported speech, the pronoun often changes.

Me › You

E.g.:

She said, "I teach English online."

"I teach English online," she said.

Reported Speech

She said she teaches English online.

or

She said she taught English online.

Reporting Verbs

Said, told and asked are the most common verbs used in indirect speech.

We use asked to report questions:-

E.g.:

I asked Lynne what time the lesson started.

We use told with an object.

E.g.:

Lynne told me she felt tired.

!Note - Here me is the object.

We usually use said without an object.

E.g.:

Lynne said she was going to teach online.

If said is used with an object we must include to :

E.g.:

Lynne said to me that she'd never been to China.

!Note - We usually use told.

E.g.:

Lynne told me (that) she'd never been to China.

There are many other verbs we can use apart from said, told and asked.

These include:-

accused, admitted, advised, alleged, agreed, apologised, begged, boasted, complained, denied, explained, implied, invited, offered, ordered, promised, replied, suggested and thought.

Using them properly can make what you say much more interesting and informative.

E.g.:

He asked me to come to the party:-

He invited me to the party.

He begged me to come to the party.

He ordered me to come to the party.

He advised me to come to the party.

He suggested I should come to the party.

Use of 'That' in reported speech

In reported speech, the word that is often used.

E.g.:

He told me that he lived in Greenwich.

However, that is optional.

E.g.:

He told me he lived in Greenwich.

!Note - That is never used in questions, instead we often use if.

E.g.:

He asked me if I would come to the party.