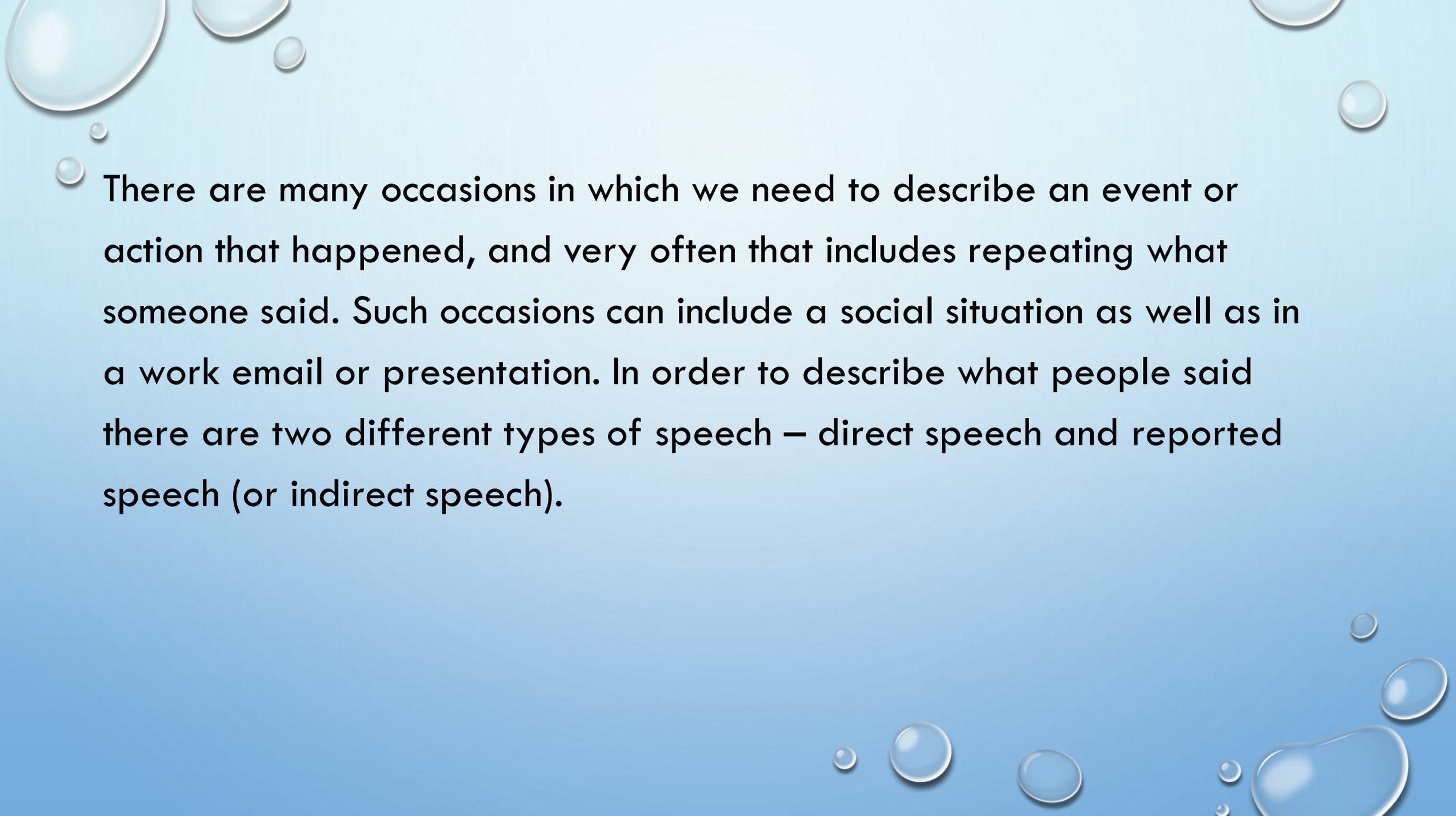


A chalkboard with a wooden tray of colorful chalk in the foreground. The chalkboard is blue and has some faint yellow lines drawn on it. The wooden tray is light brown and contains several pieces of chalk in various colors: blue, orange, white, and yellow. The background is slightly blurred, showing a person's head and shoulders in a dark jacket.

LANGUAGE STRUCTURE AND CONVENTIONS:  
**DIRECT AND REPORTED  
SPEECH**

P.185-186



There are many occasions in which we need to describe an event or action that happened, and very often that includes repeating what someone said. Such occasions can include a social situation as well as in a work email or presentation. In order to describe what people said there are two different types of speech – direct speech and reported speech (or indirect speech).

# DIRECT SPEECH

When we want to describe what someone said, one option is to use direct speech. We use direct speech when we simply repeat what someone says, putting the phrase between quotation marks:

For example:

Paul came in and said, "I'm really hungry."

It is very common to see direct speech used in books or in a newspaper article.

For example:

The local MP said, "We plan to make this city a safer place for everyone."

As you can see, with direct speech it is common to use the **verb** 'to say' ('said' in the past). You can also find other used to indicate direct speech such as '**ask**', '**reply**', and '**shout**'.

For example:

When Mrs Diaz opened the door, I **asked**, "Have you seen Lee?"

The boss was angry and **shouted**, "Why isn't he here? He hasn't finished that report yet!"

She **replied**, "No, I haven't seen him since lunchtime."

# REPORTED SPEECH

When we want to report what someone said without quotation marks and without necessarily using exactly the same words, we can use reported speech (also called indirect speech).

The **introductory verb** in the question will indicate if the tense of the sentence must change or not.

For example:

Rewrite the following sentence in reported speech:

Start with: Peter **says**

The tense will stay the same

Start with: Susan **said**

The tense will change

When we report what someone says in the present simple tense, as in the sentence below, we normally don't change the tenses, we simply change the **subject**.

For example:

Direct speech:  
"We're quite cold in  
here."



Indirect speech:  
They say (that) they are cold.

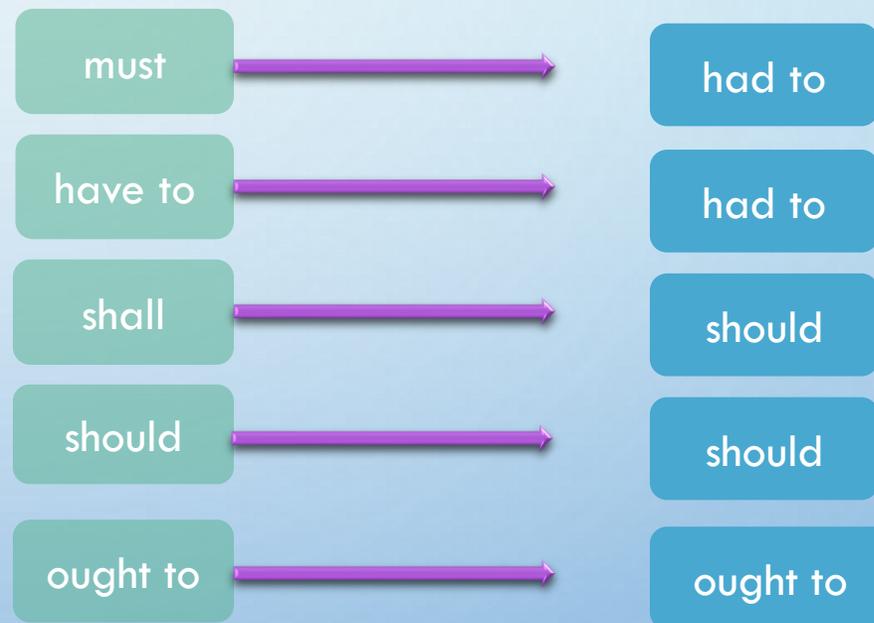
When we report things in the past, we usually change the tense by moving it one step back. For example, in the following sentence the present simple becomes the past simple in indirect speech:



Examples for all the main tenses:

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Direct Speech</b>	<b>Indirect Speech</b>
<b>Present Simple</b>	I <b>like</b> ice cream.	He said that he <b>liked</b> ice cream.
<b>Present Continuous</b>	I <b>am living</b> in Paris.	He said that he <b>was living</b> in Paris.
<b>Past Simple</b>	I <b>bought</b> a car.	He said he <b>bought</b> a car.
<b>Past Continuous</b>	I <b>was walking</b> along the Street.	He said he <b>had been walking</b> a long the Street.
<b>Present Perfect</b>	I <b>haven't seen</b> Mary.	He said he <b>hadn't seen</b> Mary.
<b>Past Perfect</b>	I <b>had taken</b> Spanish lessons before.	He said he <b>had taken</b> Spanish lessons before.

THE SAME RULE OF MOVING THE TENSES ONE STEP BACK ALSO APPLIES TO MODAL VERBS.



# USING 'SAY' OR 'TELL'

As an alternative to using 'say' we can also use 'tell' ('told' in the past) in reported speech, but in this case you need to add the **object pronoun**.

For example:

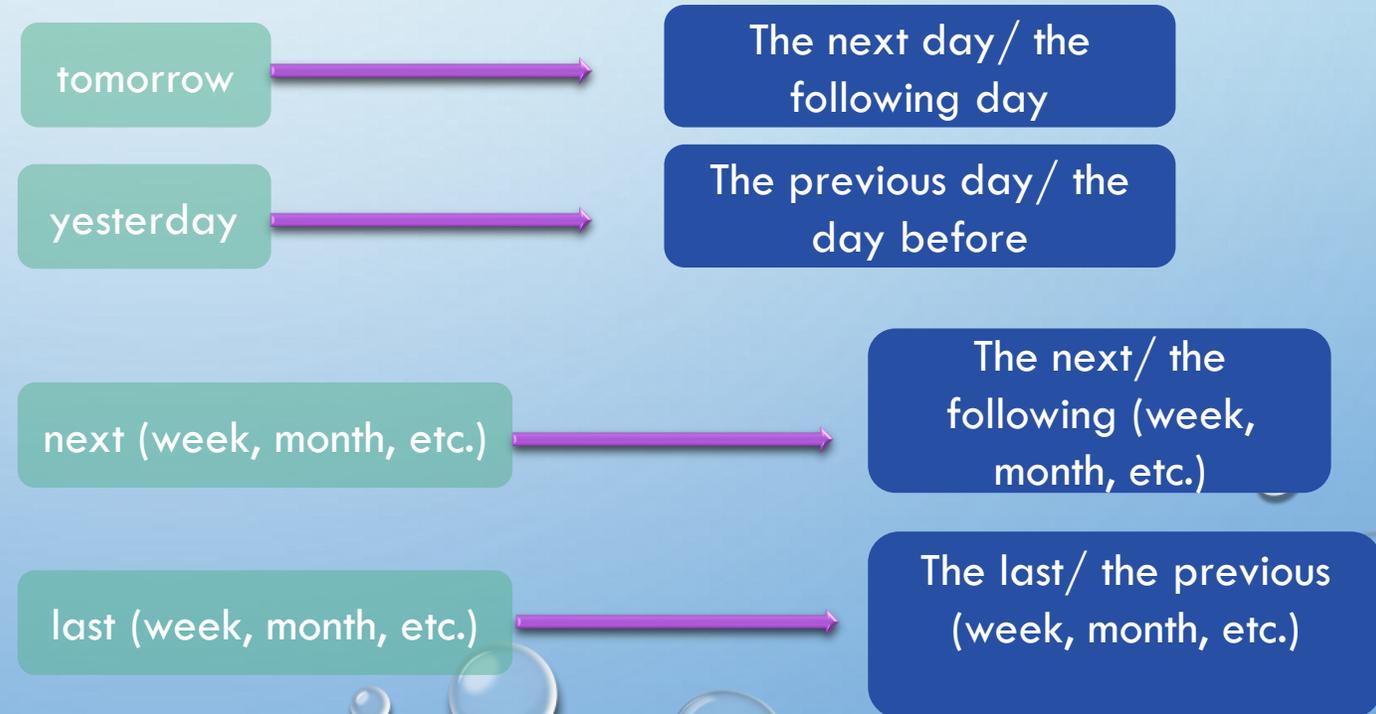
He **told me** he was going to call Alan.

They **told her** they would arrive a little late.

You **told us** you had already finished the order.

# Changing Time Expressions

Sometimes it's necessary to change the time expressions when you report speech, especially when you are speaking about the past and the time reference no longer applies.



# EXAMPLES:

Direct speech:  
"I'm seeing my brother tomorrow."



Indirect speech:  
She said she was seeing her brother the following day.

Direct speech:  
"I haven't seen them since last week."



Indirect speech:  
She said she hadn't seen them since the previous week.

# REPORTING QUESTIONS

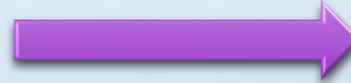
When you report a question you need to change the interrogative form into an affirmative sentence, putting the verb tense one step back, as with normal reported speech.

There are two types of questions that we can report – questions that have a yes/no response, and questions that begin with a question word like ‘what’, ‘where’, ‘who’ etc. When we report a yes/no question, we use ‘if’.

## QUESTIONS THAT HAVE A YES/NO RESPONSE

For example:

Direct speech:  
"Do they live here?"



Indirect speech:  
You asked me if they lived here.

As you can see, in the reported version of the question, 'do' is eliminated because it is no longer a question, and the verb 'live' becomes 'lived'.

# QUESTIONS STARTING WITH QUESTION WORDS LIKE 'WHAT', 'WHERE', 'WHEN', 'WHO', ETC.

We report the question using the question word but change the interrogative form to the affirmative form.

When we report a question we normally use the verb 'ask' followed by an object pronoun, if possible

For example:

Direct speech:  
"Where do they live?"



Indirect speech:  
You asked me where they lived.

Direct speech:  
"How will they get here?"

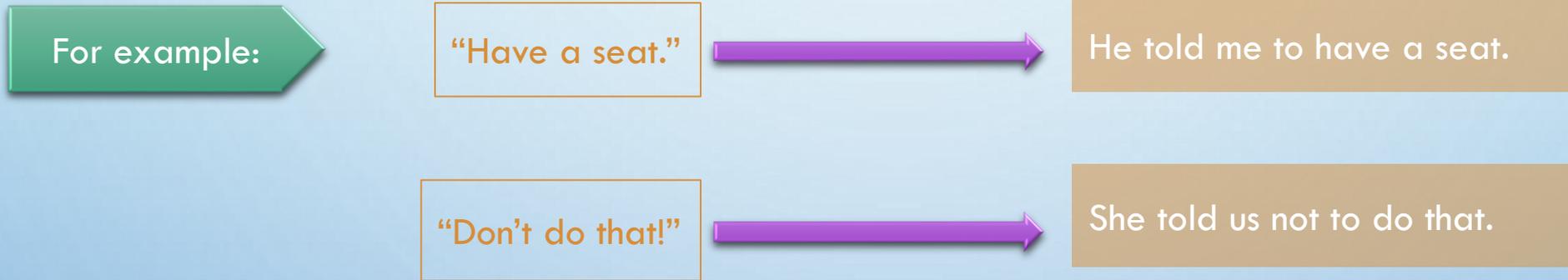


Indirect speech:  
She asked me how they would get here

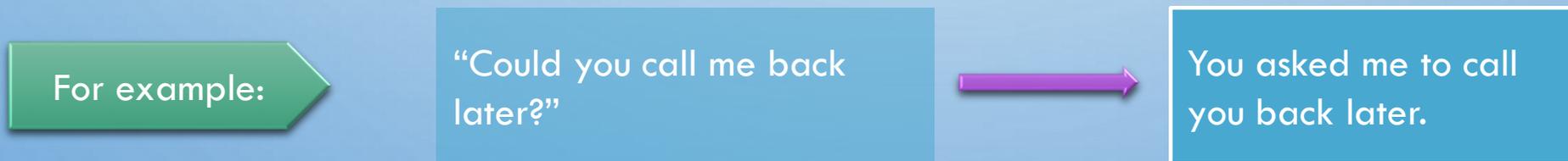
# REPORTING ORDERS AND REQUESTS

When you give someone an order, you use the imperative form, which means using just the verb without a subject.

To report an order we use 'tell' and the infinitive of the verb.



When you make a request, you normally use words like 'can', 'could', or 'will'.



# HOMEWORK

- COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY ON P.185-186 IN YOUR TEXTBOOK