**REPORTED SPEECH:**

No need to change anything, because it’s all still true, when:
1. *the speech is reported with a verb at the present (Present Simple or Present Continuous):*

* **He’s saying** **he has missed** the train, but **he'll catch** the next one.

2. *the sentence is always true*:

- We explained that **it is** very difficult to find our house.

In the other cases, we have to go back in the past, because we are reporting something that was said in the past:

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| **Simple present**  | **Simple past** |
| "I always **drink** coffee", she said | She said that she always **drank** coffee. |
| **Present continuous**  | **Past continuous** |
| "I **am reading** a book", he explained. | He explained that he **was reading** a book |
| **Simple past**  | **Past perfect** |
| "Bill **arrived** on Saturday", he said. | He said that Bill **had arrived** on Saturday. |
| **Present perfect**  | **Past perfect** |
| "I **have been** to Spain", he told me. | He told me that he **had been** to Spain. |
| **Past perfect**  | **Past perfect** |
| "I **had just turned out** the light," he explained. | He explained that he **had just turned out** the light. |
| **Present perfect continuous**  | **Past perfect continuous** |
| They complained, "We **have been waiting** for hours". | They complained that they **had been waiting** for hours. |
| **Past continuous**  | **Past perfect continuous** |
| "We **were living** in Paris", they told me. | They told me that they **had been living** in Paris. |
| **Future**  | **Conditional present** |
| "I **will be** in Geneva on Monday", he said. | He said that he **would be** in Geneva on Monday.  |
| **Future progressive**  | **Conditional progressive** |
| She said, "**I'll be using** the car next Friday". | She said that she **would be using** the car next Friday**/**the following Friday. |

I verbi modali al passato rimangono invariati nel discorso indiretto: *might, could, would, should, ought to*:

* We explained, "It **could** be difficult to find our house." = We explained that it **could** be difficult to find our house.
* She said, "I **might** bring a friend to the party." = She said that she **might** bring a friend to the party.