

Reporting Statements

TENSE CHANGE

When reporting someone's words we usually move one tense further into the past.

takes	→ took	→ had taken
is taking	→ was taking	→ had been taking
has/have taken	→ had taken	→ X
will take	→ would take	→ X

TIME EXPRESSIONS

today	→ that day	tonight	→ that night
yesterday	→ the day before / the previous day	now	→ then
tomorrow	→ the next day / the following day	last week	→ the week before / the previous week

OTHER CHANGES

Some changes depend on the context of the sentence we are reporting. (*)

this → that	these → those	here → there
I → he / she (*)	we → they (*)	you → me/us/her/him (*)

TASK: What did they say to each other over dinner yesterday?

1) "Our daughter is pregnant."

2) "That doesn't surprise me at all."

3) "I can't take this anymore."

4) "I will talk to my lawyer."

5) "My mother is coming for a visit tomorrow."

6) "Your father is getting married again."

7) "I'm really not that hungry tonight."

8) "I've forgotten my wallet."

9) "I bought a really expensive dress last week."

10) "My boss fired me yesterday."

11) "I have lied to you before."

12) "Your sister loves me."

