

Reported Speech

English Grammar Connection: In English, to report what someone *said*, you can use the simple past, the past progressive, or the conditional tense. In Spanish, a variety of tenses can be used for reported speech as well.

Simple past tense: Max **said that** he **went** to the movies.

Past progressive tense: Max **said that** he **was going** to the movies.

Conditional tense: Max **said that** he **would go** to the movies.

Use **reported speech** to relay information about what someone said, without using a direct quote.

Here's how:

The second verb in a sentence with **reported speech** can use the preterite, the imperfect, or the conditional.

To report what people said they did, use ***the preterite***.

Max dijo, << Fui al teatro >>.
Max said, "I went to the theater."

Max **dijo que fue** al teatro.
Max **said that he went** to the theater.

To report what people said they were planning to do, use ***the imperfect***.

Max dijo, << Voy al teatro >>.
Max said, "I'm going to the theater."

Max **dijo que iba** al teatro.
Max **said that he was going** to the theater.

To report what people said they would do in the future, use ***the conditional***.

Max dijo, << Iré al teatro >>.
Max said, "I will go to the theater."

Max **dijo que iría** al teatro.
Max **said that he would go** to the theater.

REMEMBER that if you use **decir** to express what someone told *another* person to do, you use the **subjunctive** for the second verb.

Max **dice que vayas** al teatro.
Max says that you should go to the theater.