



“I have a dream...”

In 1963, Martin Luther King said that he had a dream . . .

Presentation

You use reported speech (or indirect speech) to report someone’s words from the past:

“I have a dream.” → *In 1963, he said that he had a dream.*

that

You often use the conjunction *that* after the reporting verb. There is no difference.

*In 1963, he said **that** he had a dream. ✓*

*He thought **that** he could change people. ✓*

In 1963, he said he had a dream. ✓

He thought he could change people. ✓

Change in tense

When you report what someone said, you often move the tense “backwards.”

present simple → past simple (I **have** a dream. → He said he **had** a dream.)

present continuous → past continuous (You’re **meeting** me at six. → You said you **were meeting** me at six.)

present perfect → past perfect (We’ve **finished** the book. → They said they **had finished** the book.)

will → *would* (I’ll **call** you back. → Jill said she’d **call** me back.)

can → *could* (We **can** help you. → They said they **could** help us.)

past simple → past perfect (We **wanted** more time. → They said they **had wanted** more time.)

Change in pronoun

Sometimes, you also need to change the pronoun. In this speech *I* becomes *he* because another person is talking about Martin Luther King:

Martin Luther King: *“**I** have a dream.”*

Other person: *In 1963, he said that **he** had a dream.*

1 Rewrite these sentences using reported speech.

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|--|---|
| 1 He said, "I'm happy to help." | Yesterday, he said that he <u>was happy to help</u> . |
| 2 They said, "We're going out at seven." | They said that they |
| 3 She said, "I've done all my homework." | She said that she |
| 4 He thought, "They have forgotten my birthday." | He thought that they |
| 5 The politician said, "I want to improve people's lives." | The politician said she |
| 6 The team said, "We aren't going to win." | The team said they |
| 7 She said, "I'm busy so I won't come." | She said that she |
| 8 He said, "I don't know if I can come." | He said that he |

2 Complete the conversation. Use the words in bold and reported speech.

- A: **Are we going out** with Peter and Nigella tonight?
- B: No, they said that they ¹ were going out somewhere else tonight, so they **can't meet** us.
- A: Why didn't they tell us last week that they ²
- B: I don't know. Anyway, we're **having** dinner together next Friday instead.
- A: But you said that we ³ dinner with your parents next Friday.
- B: Yes, but they **'ll be** on vacation.
- A: Really? You didn't tell me they ⁴ on vacation.
- B: Yes, I did. They **'ve booked** a vacation in France.
- A: I thought they said they ⁵ their vacation in Italy.
- B: No, they said France.
- A: So they **aren't going to** visit us before they go.
- B: No. They said they ⁶ have time to visit us.

3 Look at the before and after pictures. Then write sentences using direct speech.



- 1 You said that you knew how to drive it!
"I know how to drive it."



- 2 He always said he was going to be an astronaut when he grew up.



- 3 You said you'd be home early.



- 4 I thought he said he could play the guitar.

