

UNIT 12

12.1 Tense changes in reported statements

- 1 It is usual for the verb in the reported clause to move 'one tense back' if the reporting verb is in the past tense (e.g., *said, told*).

Present —————> Past
Present Perfect —————> Past Perfect
Past —————> Past Perfect

'I'm going.' *He said he was going.*
'She's passed her test.' *He told me she had passed her test.*
'We moved to Canada when I was six.' *She said they had moved to Canada when she was six.*

The verb also moves 'one tense back' when we are reporting thoughts and feelings.

I thought she was married, but she isn't.
I didn't know he was a teacher. I thought he worked in a bank.
I forgot you were coming. Never mind. Come in.
I hoped you would call.

- 2 There is no tense change if:

- the reporting verb is in the present tense (e.g. *says, asks*).
'The bus will be late.' *He says the bus will be late.*
'I come from Spain.' *She says she comes from Spain.*

12.3 Reported questions

- 1 The word order in reported questions is different in reported speech. There is no inversion of subject and auxiliary verb and there is no *do/does/did*. This is similar to indirect questions (see p149).

'Why have you come here?' *I asked her why she had come here.*
'What time is it?' *He wants to know what time it is.*
'Where do you live?' *She asked me where I lived.*

Note

We do not use a question mark in a reported question.

We do not use *say* in reported questions.

He said, 'How old are you?' *He asked me how old I am.*

- 2 If there is no question word, use *if* or *whether*.

She wants to know	if whether	she should wear a dress.
-------------------	---------------	--------------------------

12.4 Reported commands, requests, etc.

- 1 For reported commands, requests, offers, and advice, we use verb + person + *to* + infinitive.

They told us to go away.

They asked me to look after their cat.

He urged the teachers to go back to work.

She persuaded me to have my hair cut.

I advised the President to leave immediately.

He's a liar!

2 After having a coffee with Adam, Ron and Beatrice go back to their hotel room. Complete their conversation.

1 R Adam lives in Birmingham.

B He told me he lived in! (Cambridge)

2 R He doesn't like his new job.

B He told me he loved it! (love)

3 R He's moving to Manchester.

B Hang on! He told me he was ^{moving to}! (Australia)

4 R He went to Brighton on his last holiday.

B Strange. He told me he'd been ^{to}! (Florida)

5 R He'll be 40 next week.

B Really! He told me he'd be ³⁰! (30)

6 R He's been married three times.

B But he told me he'd never ^{been married}! (never/married)

R You see! I told you he was a liar!

T 12.4 Listen and check. Notice the stress and intonation. Practise the conversation with a partner.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Saying sorry

- 1 Complete the conversations with the expressions from the box.

(I'm) sorry	I'm so sorry	Pardon
Excuse me	What	

- 1 A Excuse me, can you tell me where the post office is?
B I'm sorry, I'm a stranger here myself.
- 2 A Ouch! That's my foot!
B I'm sorry. I wasn't looking where I was going.
- 3 A Excuse me, what's that creature called?
B It's a Diplodocus.
A Pardon?
B A Diplodocus. D-I-P-L-O-D-O-C-U-S.
A Thank you very much.
- 4 A I failed my driving test for the sixth time!
B I'm so sorry
- 5 A Excuse me! We need to get past. My little boy isn't feeling well.
- 6 A Do you want your hearing aid, Grandma?
B Pardon?
A I said: Do you want your hearing aid?
B What?
A DO YOU WANT YOUR HEARING AID?!
B I'm sorry I can't hear you. I need my hearing aid.