

# The Reported Speech

Some modal verbs do not change in the reported speech.

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Jane: "You <b>should</b> go to a doctor."	Jane said (that) I <b>should</b> go to a doctor.
Jane: "He <b>must</b> be a doctor." (a deduction)	Jane said he <b>must</b> be a doctor.
Jane: "The doctor <b>might</b> propose an operation."	Jane said the doctor <b>might</b> propose an operation.
Jane: "If the doctor were here, he <b>would</b> take you to the operating room."	Jane said (that) the doctor <b>would</b> take me to the operating room if he had been there.
Jane: "You <b>used to</b> go to a doctor."	Jane said I <b>used to</b> go to a doctor.



Some modal verbs change in reported speech.

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech (Reported Speech)	The change
<b>will</b> Jane: "He <b>will</b> go to a doctor."		
<b>Shall</b> Jane: " <b>Shall</b> I call the doctor?"		would
<b>Can</b> Jane: "You <b>can</b> go to a doctor."		could
<b>May</b> Jane: "The doctor <b>may</b> be in his clinic." Jane: " <b>May</b> I call the doctor for you?"		might – possibility could - permission
<b>Must</b> Jane: "You <b>must</b> go to a doctor."		
<b>Have to</b> Jane: "You <b>have to</b> make an appointment to see a doctor."		had to
<b>Don't/doesn't have to</b> Jane: "Oh, you <b>don't have to</b> see a doctor for that."		didn't need to

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## Direct Speech

Jane: "You **should** go to a doctor."

Jane: "He **must** be a doctor." (a deduction)

Jane: "The doctor **might** propose an operation."

Jane: "If the doctor were here, he **would** take you to the operating room."

Jane: "You **used to** go to a doctor."

## Indirect Speech

Jane said (that) I **should** go to a doctor.

Jane said he **must** be a doctor.

Jane said the doctor **might** propose an operation.

Jane said (that) the doctor **would** take me to the operating room if he had been there.

Jane said I **used to** go to a doctor.



Some modal verbs change in reported speech.

## Direct Speech

**will** Jane: "He **will** go to a doctor."

**Shall** Jane: "**Shall** I call the doctor?"

**Can** Jane: "You **can** go to a doctor."

**May** Jane: "The doctor **may** be in his clinic."

Jane: "**May** I call the doctor for you?"

**Must** Jane: "You **must** go to a doctor."

**Have to** Jane: "You **have to** make an appointment to see a doctor."

**Don't/doesn't have to** Jane: "Oh, you **don't have to** see a doctor for that."

## Indirect Speech (Reported Speech)

Jane said he **would** go to a doctor.

Jane suggested if she **would** call the doctor.

Jane said I **could** go to a doctor.

Jane said the doctor **might** be in his clinic.

Jane asked if she **could** call the doctor for me.

Jane insisted (that) I **had to** go to a doctor.

Jane said (that) I **had to** make an appointment to see a doctor.

Jane said I **didn't need to** see a doctor for that.

## The change

would

could

might – possibility  
could – permission

had to

didn't need to