

Exceptions to Backshifting

(adapted from *The Grammar Book* by Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman, 1999, pp. 690-691)

1. Immediate reports

A: *We'll be having spaghetti for dinner.*

B: *What did he say?*

C: *He **said** we'll be having spaghetti for dinner.*

2. General truths

*Socrates **said** that nothing **can** harm a good person.*

*Their teacher **told** them that the earth **moves** around the sun.*

3. Coding the speaker's stance

*A Foreign Ministry spokesman **said** government policy **is** not to sell arms to sensitive areas. But he **said** his country **needed** the income to convert arms factories to non-military production.*

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