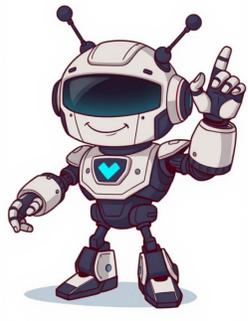


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Have all the verbs in the second sentence transitioned correctly into the reported speech? Should the phrase when he had needed something be changed to when he needed something? (Some phrases seem to sound unnatural when they are used in the past perfect tense. Yet this is what the rules of grammar often require in the reported speech.)

Direct speech: My deceased grandmother whom I loved and to whom I had turned for help when I needed something while she was alive sprang up in my memory while I was thinking about the past.Reported speech: "The man said that his deceased grandmother whom he had loved and to whom he had turned for help when he had needed something while she had been alive had sprung up in his memory while he had been thinking about the past." I see no reason for the past perfect in the direct speech version. The loving and the turning to for help both refer to the same time: while she was alive. In the reported speech version "While she had been alive" sets the time for "loved" and "turned to", which should be in the simple past tense. "Needed" takes its time from "turned to", so this, too, remains in the simple past. In the second part, you could use the past perfect for one of the clauses (again, with "while" you only need to establish the time once), but here it is less clear which verb should use the past perfect, and I think either "had sprung" or "had been thinking" would be fine, but not both.There is an argument that says the "when she had been alive" shifts the time of the action backwards and that only the simple past is needed for "sprung" and "was thinking", which occurred later, but I don't think this is right; the "while she had been alive" section appears not to shift the time of the action at all, which is still set at the time of "the man said". In the reported speech version "While she had been alive" sets the time for "loved" and "turned to", which should be in the simple past tense. I do not see why the preposition to would have to be added after the word turned because the preposition is already put before the word whom: to whom he had turned. In the reported speech, why should I not simply put all verbs in the past perfect tense?(According to the rules of grammar, verbs in the past simple tense in the direct speech should be backshifted to the past perfect tense.In the below reported speech, all the verbs refer to actions which preceded the time when the man spoke. Therefore, why would any of them have to be put in the past simple instead of past perfect tense?"The man said that his deceased grandmother whom he had loved and to whom he had turned for help when he had needed something while she had been alive had sprung up in his memory while he had been thinking about the past." I do not see why the preposition to would have to be added after the word turned because the preposition is already put before the word whom: to whom he had turned. Sorry, you are quite right. I read "to whom" correctly at first, but then it slipped my mind when I was going through all the verb tenses. (According to the rules of grammar, verbs in the past simple tense in the direct speech should be backshifted to the past perfect tense.) As far as I am aware, there are no particular "rules of grammar" for indirect speech. The purpose of sentences in English is to convey a message, and verb tenses are chosen that best do this. One of the most common situations for changing verb tenses is converting direct to indirect speech, and it is sensible to have a set of "rules" to follow when learning how to do this, but really these are little more than guidelines. The general principle still holds that English sentences have a time they are set in. If this time is in the past and you want to move it further back in time, then you use the past perfect, and this is the underlying reason behind backshifting the past tense to the past perfect in indirect speech. In general, once you have moved the time back, you don't need the past perfect again until you need to move the time back further again. Furthermore, changing direct to indirect speech does not override any internal time markers such as "when" and "while", where just one verb sets the time, and "while" or "when" carry this time across to all other verbs that happen at the same time. The man said that [this is an action, and establishes the time of the sentence: the time that the man said these things]his deceased grandmother whom he loved and to whom he turned for help when he needed something while she had been alive [All this refers to the period when his grandmother had been alive. One use of the past perfect is used to say that this was before the time of the sentence, and "while" and "when" carry this time across to all other verbs in the group.]had sprung up [This is a new action at an earlier time than the man saying, so the past perfect is needed to shift the time backwards.]in his memory while he was thinking about the past. [This happens at the same time as the springing up, and "while" ties the two verbs to the same time.]This isn't the only way of wording this sentence, and it is possible to use more verbs in the past perfect than I have done. You cannot use the past perfect for both verbs joined by "when" (so you cannot use it for both "turn" and "need"). "While" is less prescriptive, but using the past perfect as many times as you have done is highly unnatural. It is a tense that is best only used when you have to, not merely because you think you can. Direct speech: My deceased grandmother whom I loved and to whom I had turned for help when I needed something while she was alive sprang up in my memory while I was thinking about the past.Reported speech: "The man said that his deceased grandmother whom he had loved and to whom he had turned for help when he had needed something while she had been alive had sprung up in his memory while he had been thinking about the past." The main clause of the original quote is: My deceased grandmother sprang up in my memory (while I was thinking about the past).When expressing this as reported speech, backshifting that verb fulfills the requirement to use the past perfect. It is not necessary to also backshift the verb in the subordinate wh-clause, since the word while (= concurrently with) clearly places that action within the time frame already established by backshifting the main verb to had sprung up: The man said that his deceased grandmother had sprung up in his memory (while he was thinking about the past). The rest of the text is parenthetical. In it, the past perfect is needed in relation to loving the grandmother and turning to her for help, because those statements relate to a time even earlier than the now backshifted time frame of the main clause (but note that theres no tense that goes back any further than the past perfect!). However, again it is unnecessary to backshift the verb in either of the wh-clauses, since when and while clearly place them in the established time frame.The man said that his deceased grandmother whom he had loved and to whom he had turned for help when he needed something while she was alive had sprung up in his memory while he was thinking about the past.The man said that his deceased grandmother whom he had loved and to whom, while she was alive, he had turned for help whenever he needed anything had sprung up in his memory while he was thinking about the past. Thank you for the explanations. Apparently a speaker can backshift the first action in the past simple tense to the past perfect tense only once to show that the action preceded the moment of speaking in the past, after which all subsequent actions which likewise preceded the moment of speaking in the past can be put in the past simple tense, because it is already clear from the context that they apply to the same time as the first action in the past perfect tense. You cannot use the past perfect for both verbs joined by "when" (so you cannot use it for both "turn" and "need"). Is there a rule which says that the past perfect tense should not be used with the verbs joined by the conjunction when in the indirect speech? Does the meaning of the sentence change when it is used? "While" is less prescriptive, but using the past perfect as many times as you have done is highly unnatural. Apparently in the English language, some things come down to usage and how statements sound to people, whether natural or unnatural, rather than to rules of grammar. The way statements sound to the ear seems to determine how they are to be worded. Your description is not valid. Its not a case of a speaker can backshift only once, or that all subsequent actions can be put in the past simple. The rule is that you must backshift the main verb in the quoted statement. But anything else depends on exactly what is being said. As Uncle Jack says, and as Ive tried to demonstrate, you should use the past perfect where necessary, but only where necessary. Is there a rule which says that the past perfect tense should not be used with the verbs joined by the conjunction when in the indirect speech? There is nothing special about indirect speech. Backshifting is a way of preserving the correct sequence of events following what had been the present now being the past and a new event - the conversation itself - now being included in the sentence. If the original direct speech included the word "when", then the two clauses "when" joins already have a temporal relationship. Often you need to backshift one of the clauses to show when it occurred in relation to the time of the conversation, but "when" usually preserves the temporal relationship without needing to backshift the other clause. For example, direct speech with both actions in the past:Peter (to Julie): I played hockey when I was younger.Julie: Peter told me that he had played hockey when he was younger.Julie: Peter told me that he had played hockey when he was younger. Should the past perfect tense be used with the verb which precedes or follows the conjunction when?Peter told me that he had played hockey when he was younger.Peter told me that he had played hockey when he had been younger. The verb that needs to be backshifted in reported speech is the verb in the main clause. When introduces a subordinate clause, which belongs in the same time frame so its verb does not need to also be backshifted. I played hockey (when I was younger), he said.Peter told me that he had played hockey (when he was younger) Peter told me that he had played hockey when he had been younger Peter told me that he played hockey when he had been younger Peter told me that he had played hockey in his youth In the below sentences, there is no conjunction when. Have the tenses been backshifted correctly? Direct speech: There was a man in my neighborhood who had a serious illness. After he had gone to that clinic, the illness was gone.Indirect speech: He said that there had been a man in his neighborhood who had had a serious illness. After he had gone to that clinic, the illness had been gone. Where did you find the original sentence. What is meant by "After he had gone to that clinic, the illness was gone"? I had written the sentences myself because I want to learn what tenses to use in such instances which I often encounter when I have to use indirect speech.The statement after he had gone to that clinic, the illness was gone means that after the man had been treated in the clinic, the illness was cured. The statement after he had gone to that clinic, the illness was gone means that after the man had been treated in the clinic, the illness was cured. In that case, the direct speech version should use the simple past tense for both verbs: "After he went to that clinic, the illness left him". The reason for the simple past tense is because he went to the clinic after getting the illness, so there is no need of the past perfect to shift the time back, and no other reason to use the past perfect either. You cannot use the passive voice for "go" since this use is intransitive. You could say "the illness went", but this is unnatural with the previous verb also being "went", but having a different meaning. "The illness left him" is one of a number of possibilities. In that case, the direct speech version should use the simple past tense for both verbs: "After he went to that clinic, the illness left him". The reason for the simple past tense is because he went to the clinic after getting the illness, so there is no need of the past perfect to shift the time back, and no other reason to use the past perfect either. The time of the illness seems to be irrelevant to the tenses of the two actions in the second sentence, because the tenses pertain to the sequence of only two actions: the going to the clinic and the curing of the illness. To show the sequence (the fact that the illness was cured after going to the clinic), I thought that it is proper to use the past perfect tense with the first action and the past simple tense with the second action in the direct speech: After he had gone to that clinic, the illness left him. In the indirect speech, is it grammatically incorrect to say the following?He said that there had been a man in his neighborhood who had had a serious illness. [The man no longer had the illness at the moment of the speaking in the past.] After he had gone to that clinic, the illness had left him. [Both the going and the leaving are past actions from the perspective of the speaking in the past and from the perspective of the present time.] To show the sequence (the fact that the illness was cured after going to the clinic), I thought that it is proper to use the past perfect tense with the first action and the past simple tense with the second action in the direct speech: After he had gone to that clinic, the illness left him. This may be where you have been going wrong. You do not need the past perfect every time you need to show the sequence in which two events happen. Time is presumed to stand still or move forward in English, and you only need the past perfect to shift time backwards. Furthermore, the time of the action continues across sentences and paragraphs; if every verb you write refers to either the same time or a later time than the previous verb, then you may never need the past perfect at all.There was [an indeterminate time in the past; this does not usually affect the time of the action] a man in my neighborhood who had [an action in the past: this sets the time of the action.] a serious illness. After he went [another action, but it happened after the previous action, so it uses the simple past tense and shifts the time of the action forwards] to that clinic, the illness left him [another action, but it happened after the previous action, so it uses the simple past tense and shifts the time of the action forwards]. In the indirect speech, is it grammatically incorrect to say the following?He said that there had been a man in his neighborhood who had had a serious illness. [The man no longer had the illness at the moment of the speaking in the past.] After he had gone to that clinic, the illness had left him. [Both the going and the leaving are past actions from the perspective of the speaking in the past and from the perspective of the present time.] Yes. You can use the past perfect for "there had been" and "who had had", but after this, events follow in chronological sequence so the simple past tense is used. The time of the action shifts with every action verb. It is not locked by "said". I can see now that it is necessary to use the past simple tense to show that a series of actions followed after a previous action which is described with the past perfect tense. Otherwise, the reader may think that the series of actions had happened at the same time as the previous action.Another reason why the past perfect tense is not always used by people is because many statements where this tense is used may sound unusual and difficult to speak. One website states: Most often, the reason to write a verb in the past perfect tense is to show that it happened before other actions in the same sentence that are described by verbs in the simple past tense. Writing an entire paragraph with every verb in the past perfect tense is unusual. Are there any differences in French Quotations () and English quotation(") grammatically? If so what are they? The main usage of quotation marks is the same in both languages: quoting or emphasizing words or phrases. The typography rules are however a bit different.When using French guillemets, you should add an (ideally thin) non-breaking space on either side of the quoted text (e.g., Bonjour!), whereas no spaces are used with English quotation marks (e.g., Hello!).In French, a punctuation mark closing a sentence comes before or after the closing guillemet depending on whether it modifies the quoted text or the whole sentence (e.g., Il lui a demand: Veux-tu que je t'aide? mais c'tait contre-cur, but, Il a dit: Je vais t'aider, mais finalement il n'a rien fait). In English, the closing punctuation of a phrase is supposed to come always inside the quotation marks (e.g., He said, I will help you, but he never did). Bonjour,en anglais, lorsque je lis, je remarque que la virgule qui sert normalement sparer la citation et la suite du texte est implante juste avant la deuxieme quotation mark.Exemple : Ah, shut up, Dursley, yeh great prune, said the giant. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone Alors qu'en franais, on crirait : Ah, shut up, Dursley, yeh great prune , said the giant. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone Pourquoi fait-on cela ? Merci vous. C'est seulement l'usage typographique en vigueur pour l'anglais qui est diffrent de l'usage franais. Il y a par ailleurs des differences entre les pays et entre les diffrents manuels typographiques anglophones.Pour plus de dtails, voir Quotation marks in English - Wikipedia. Last edited: Jul 29, 2017 In English, the closing punctuation of a phrase is supposed to come always inside the quotation marks (e.g., He said, I will help you, but he never did). This is true only in America. Here in Britian you enclose the punctuation in the speech marks only if the punctuation is part of the quotation. In your example we write: He said "I will help you", but he never did. More precisely, in the UK the standard rule is indeed not to enclose trailing commas inside quotations for true quotations, i.e., sentences that were actually spoken. But, as strange as it may be, the rule is to follow American style for fictional dialogues as in Harry Potter's example above. How is a quote within a quote rendered in French? In America, we have the special rule to use single quotes to demarcate a quotation that is inside another quotation in double quotes. Example: "As I once told you, "I repeated to him, "Mark Twain didn't say, "Honesty is the best policy." He said, "Honesty is the best policy when there is money in it.""How would this be rendered in French? Double guillemets? Are double or single quotes ("", ") ever used in French? How is a quote within a quote rendered in French? There are different ways to render this. The standard way is to use English double quotes () for quotes within a quote:Comme je te l'ai dit une fois, je lui ai rpt, Mark Twain n'a pas dit: L'honntet est la meilleure politique. Il a dit: L'honntet est la meilleure politique quand il y a de l'argent en jeu. I however prefer single guillemets () instead of English double quotes, but this is only used in Switzerland as far as I know:Comme je te l'ai dit une fois, je lui ai rpt, Mark Twain n'a pas dit: L'honntet est la meilleure politique. Il a dit: L'honntet est la meilleure politique quand il y a de l'argent en jeu. We however never use English single quotes () in French as they are too easily confused with apostrophes (').For more details, please refer to FR: citations imbriques - quotation within a quotation - typography. Can I make a combination of "tiret" and "guillemets" in the same dialogue? Example: Aprs une longue pause, Anne-Laure te demande : Qu'y a-t-il ? Rien, rponds-tu. I would really appreciate it if someone could tell us the keyboard combination to type guillemets. I'm currently copying and pasting them from Internet and it's rather laborious. In the WordReference forums you can insert them by clicking the button and selecting them. For keyboard shortcuts, see our sticky. That link will come in really handy, thanks for posting!

Speech comprehension definition. What is speech comprehension. Comprehension of speech meaning. Comprehension part of speech.

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