

24.6 Konjunktiv I: use

German uses Konjunktiv I to express indirect speech in formal language:

Der Spiegel berichtete, die *The 'Spiegel' reported that Rezession in Deutschland the recession in Germany sei vorüber.*

■ 24.6.1 The following table shows how the different tenses of the subjunctive are used for indirect speech.

Direct speech (indicative) Indirect speech (subjunctive)

present	→ present
Sie liest das Buch. <i>She is reading the book.</i>	Sie sagt, sie lese das Buch. <i>She says she is reading the book.</i> Sie sagte, sie lese das Buch. <i>She said she was reading the book.</i>
Sie wird das Buch lesen. <i>She will read the book.</i>	Sie sagt, sie werde das Buch lesen. <i>She says she will read the book.</i> Sie sagte, sie werde das Buch lesen. <i>She said she would read the book.</i>
<i>simple past/perfect/pluperfect → perfect</i>	
Sie las das Buch. <i>She read the book.</i>	Sie sagt, sie habe das Buch gelesen. <i>She says she has read the book.</i>
Sie hat das Buch gelesen. <i>She has read the book.</i>	Sie sagte, sie habe das Buch gelesen. <i>She said she had read the book.</i>

■ 24.6.2 The exception to the above pattern is that, where the Konjunktiv I form would be identical with the present indicative, it is always replaced by Konjunktiv II:

Er behauptete, Sie

He maintained you did not play golf.

Ich kündigte an, dass ich

I announced that I would give the reception in the embassy.

■ 24.6.3 In colloquial language Konjunktiv I is almost entirely avoided and is replaced by either the present indicative or Konjunktiv II (one-word form):

Mein Freund hat gesagt,
die Rezession ist/wäre
vorbei.

My friend said that the recession was over.

Im Fernsehen haben sie
gesagt, der Rhein **hat/**
hätte wieder Hochwasser.

They said on the TV that the Rhine had flooded again.

Er hat mir versprochen, er
wird/würde es versuchen.

He promised me that he would give it a try.