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.