Reported Speech

STATEMENTS & QUESTIONS | B1-B2 | 60 QUESTIONS + ANSWER KEY

Practise reporting what people said and asked, using natural word order and common tense changes.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Quick guide: from direct to reported speech

STATEMENTS

said (that) / told + person (that)

"I am tired."

She said (that) she was tired.

QUESTIONS

asked + if / whether / question word

"Where do you live?"

He asked where I lived.

When the reporting verb is past, we often move the tense back:

am/is -> was | have/has done -> had done | will -> would | can -> could

For these exercises, use backshift. In real speech, a tense may stay if a fact is still true.

Exercise 1: Report the statements

Complete each sentence using the usual tense backshift. Pronouns have already been changed.

01. Mia: "I work from home." Mia said that she _____ from home.

02. Leo: "I am revising for an exam." Leo said he _____ for an exam.

03. Anna: "I have lost my keys." Anna said she _____ her keys.

04. Ben: "We visited York last month." Ben said they _____ York the previous month.

05. Ruby: "I will email you tomorrow." Ruby told me she _____ me the next day.

06. Noah: "I can swim." Noah said that he _____ swim.

07. Ella: "My parents are away." Ella said that her parents _____ away.

08. Max: "I do not like coffee." Max said he _____ coffee.

09. Sara: "We have finished lunch." Sara said they _____ lunch.

10. Tom: "I bought the tickets yesterday." Tom said he _____ the tickets the day before.

Reporting Verbs & Yes/No Questions

Exercise 2: Say, tell or ask

Use the correct past form of the verb in brackets.

01. "I am tired." She _____ that she was tired. (say / tell)

02. "The train is late." He _____ me that the train was late. (say / tell)

03. "Please wait here." The receptionist _____ us to wait there. (say / tell)

04. "Where is the exit?" The visitor _____ where the exit was. (say / ask)

05. "We are ready." They _____ that they were ready. (say / tell)

06. "Take a seat." The teacher _____ the students to take a seat. (tell / say)

07. "Why are you upset?" Dad _____ me why I was upset. (ask / tell)

08. "My flight is delayed." She _____ her brother that her flight was delayed. (say / tell)

09. "I need a break." Kim _____ that she needed a break. (tell / say)

10. "Are you free on Friday?" He _____ if I was free on Friday. (say / ask)

Exercise 3: Report yes/no questions

Complete with the usual backshift. Notice the subject-verb order after if / whether.

01. "Do you live nearby?" She asked me if I _____ nearby.

02. "Are you working today?" He asked if I _____ that day.

03. "Have they finished?" Mum asked if they _____.

04. "Did you call Anna?" Dan asked if I _____ Anna.

05. "Will she attend?" I asked if she _____.

06. "Can we start?" They asked if they _____.

07. "Is the museum open?" We asked whether the museum _____ open.

08. "Does Eva speak Spanish?" He asked if Eva _____ Spanish.

09. "Have you seen my glasses?" Dad asked if I _____ his glasses.

10. "Were they waiting outside?" She asked if they _____ outside.

Question Words & Corrections

Exercise 4: Report wh-questions

Complete with the usual tense backshift. Use statement word order, not question word order.

01. "Where do you live?" He asked Maya where she _____.

02. "What are you reading?" Ella asked Tom what he _____.

03. "When did the train leave?" I asked when the train _____.

04. "Why have you not replied?" She asked me why I _____.

05. "How long have you known Sam?" Dad asked how long I _____ Sam.

06. "Who is calling?" Mum asked who _____.

07. "Which route will they take?" He asked which route they _____.

08. "What can we do?" They asked what they _____.

09. "Where does Anna work?" She asked where Anna _____.

10. "Why were you laughing?" He asked why I _____.

Exercise 6: Correct the mistake

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

01. She told that she was ill.

02. He asked me where did I live.

03. They said they will arrive the next day.

04. Anna asked if was I ready.

05. He asked if I could to help.

06. He said me that the meeting was cancelled.

07. She asked why was the bus late.

08. Tom said he had saw the accident.

09. She asked did I need a lift.

10. We asked where was the library.

Rewrite into Reported Speech

Exercise 5: Report the exact words

Write a complete reported sentence. Use the past reporting verb and standard backshift.

01. Liam said, "I am staying with my aunt."
Begin: Liam said that ...

02. Nina said, "I have never been to Wales."
Begin: Nina said that ...

03. Joe said, "We will leave tomorrow."
Begin: Joe said that ... (report the next day)

04. Mum asked me, "Are you hungry?"
Begin: Mum asked me if ...

05. Eva asked Ben, "Did you enjoy the concert?"
Begin: Eva asked Ben whether ...

06. Tom asked Lucy, "Where do you work?"
Begin: Tom asked Lucy where ...

07. Sam asked me, "What are you doing?"
Begin: Sam asked me what ...

08. Mia said to me, "I can help you."
Begin: Mia told me that ...

09. Alex asked Ruth, "Have you sent the invitation?"
Begin: Alex asked Ruth if ...

10. Kate asked me, "Why did you leave early?"
Begin: Kate asked me why ...

Remember:
Reported questions do not use do/does/did or inverted word order.

Answer Key

REPORTED SPEECH | STATEMENTS & QUESTIONS | 60 QUESTIONS

Exercise 1 - Statements

1. worked
2. was revising
3. had lost
4. had visited
5. would email
6. could
7. were
8. did not like
9. had finished
10. had bought

Exercise 2 - Reporting verbs

1. said
2. told
3. told
4. asked
5. said
6. told
7. asked
8. told
9. said
10. asked

Exercise 3 - Yes/no questions

1. lived
2. was working
3. had finished
4. had called
5. would attend
6. could start
7. was
8. spoke
9. had seen
10. had been waiting

Exercise 4 - Wh-questions

1. lived
2. was reading
3. had left
4. had not replied
5. had known
6. was calling
7. would take
8. could do
9. worked
10. had been laughing

Exercise 5 - Model rewrites

1. Liam said that he was staying with his aunt.
2. Nina said that she had never been to Wales.
3. Joe said that they would leave that day.
4. Mum asked me if I was hungry.
5. Eva asked Ben whether he had enjoyed the concert.
6. Tom asked Lucy where she worked.
7. Sam asked me what I was doing.
8. Mia told me that she could help me.
9. Alex asked Ruth if she had sent the invitation.
10. Kate asked me why I had left early.

Exercise 6 - Corrections

1. She said that she was ill.
2. He asked me where I lived.
3. They said they would arrive the next day.
4. Anna asked if I was ready.
5. He asked if I could help.
6. He told me that the meeting was cancelled.
7. She asked why the bus was late.
8. Tom said he had seen the accident.
9. She asked if I needed a lift.
10. We asked where the library was.