

Reported Statements

Backshift, say vs tell, time expressions

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

Backshift: present!past, will!would, can!could, must!had to. 'tell' needs an object

1 Choose the backshifted verb

EASY

Choose the correct backshifted verb.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 'I live in Paris.'! She said she ____ | 2. 'I am tired.'! He said he ____ tired. |
| 3. 'I have finished.'! She said she ____ | 4. 'I will help you.'! He said he ____ help. |
| 5. 'I was cooking.'! She said she ____ | 6. 'I can swim.'! He said he ____ swim. |
| 7. 'I don't know.'! She said she ____ | 8. 'I am going to leave.'! He said he ____ |
| 9. 'I have been waiting.'! She said she ____ | 10. 'I must leave.'! He said he ____ to leave. |

2 Said or Told?

MEDIUM

Choose 'said' or 'told'. Tell needs an object.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. She ____ that she was tired. | 2. He ____ me that he would be late. |
| 3. They ____ that the meeting was cancelled. | 4. She ____ her friend that she couldn't come. |
| 5. He ____ a joke and everyone laughed. | 6. She ____ that she had already eaten. |
| 7. The doctor ____ me I needed to rest. | 8. He ____ the truth in the end. |
| 9. She ____ goodbye and left. | 10. They ____ us that prices would go up. |

3 Write the reported statement

HARD

Write the reported clause only.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 'I work in hospital.'! He said he ____ | 2. 'She is coming tomorrow.'! He said she ____ |
| 3. 'I have lost my keys.'! She said she ____ | 4. 'We will finish soon.'! They said they ____ |
| 5. 'I can't find it.'! She said she ____ | 6. 'I don't like this.'! He said he ____ |
| 7. 'They are going to move.'! She said they ____ | 8. 'I must call her.'! He said he ____ her |
| 9. 'I was sleeping.'! She said she ____ | 10. 'We have been waiting.'! They said they ____ |

4

Full reported sentences**HARDER**

Write the complete reported speech sentence.

1. Direct: 'I live here.' (She / said)

3. Direct: 'We have finished the project.' (They / said)

5. Direct: 'I am going to resign.' (He / said)

7. Direct: 'I don't know the answer.' (She / told me)

9. Direct: 'We'll be here tomorrow.' (They / told us)

2. Direct: 'I'll call you tomorrow.' (He / told me)

4. Direct: 'I can't come today.' (She / told him)

6. Direct: 'We were waiting for an hour.' (They / said)

8. Direct: 'I must leave now.' (He / said)

10. Direct: 'I've never been to Japan.' (She / said)

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Backshifted verbs

1 lived

2 was

3 had

4 would

5 had been

6 could

7 didn't

8 was

9 had been

10 had

2 Exercise 2 said / told

1 said

2 told

3 said

4 told

5 told

6 said

7 told

8 told

9 said

10 told

3 Exercise 3 Reported clauses

1 worked in a hospital

2 was coming the next day

3 had lost her keys

4 would finish soon

5 couldn't find it

6 didn't like it

7 were going to move

8 had to call

9 had been sleeping

10 had been waiting

4 Exercise 4 Full sentences

1 she said she lived there

2 he told me he would call me the next day

3 they said they had finished the project

4 she told him she couldn't come that day

5 he said he was going to resign

6 they said they had been waiting for an hour

7 she told me she didn't know the answer

8 he said he had to leave then

9 they told us they would be there the next day

10 she said she had never been to japan