

Advanced Reported Speech

Backshift, reporting verbs, questions

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

Shift tenses back; use correct reporting verb + infinitive or gerund.

1 Backshift the tense

EASY

Report the statement using correct backshift.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 'I am tired.' She said she ____. | 2. 'I work here.' He said he ____. |
| 3. 'We have finished.' They said they ____. | 4. 'It will rain.' She said it ____. |
| 5. 'I was waiting.' He said he ____. | 6. 'I can help.' She said she ____. |
| 7. 'I didn't sleep.' He said he ____. | 8. 'She may leave.' He said she ____. |
| 9. 'We are going.' They said they ____. | 10. 'I have been working.' She said she ____. |

2 Report the question

MEDIUM

Change the direct question to reported speech.

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|---|--|
| 1. 'Where do you live?' She asked ____. | 2. 'Are you coming?' He asked ____. |
| 3. 'Have you eaten?' She wanted to know ____. | 4. 'What time did it start?' He asked ____. |
| 5. 'Did she call you?' She asked ____. | 6. 'Why are you crying?' He asked ____. |
| 7. 'Can you drive?' She asked ____. | 8. 'What will you do?' He asked ____. |
| 9. 'Who broke the window?' She asked ____. | 10. 'How long have you waited?' He asked ____. |

3 Choose the reporting verb

HARD

Choose the best reporting verb.

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|--|---|
| 1. 'I'll do it later.' He ____ to do it later. | 2. 'Don't touch that!' She ____ me not to touch it. |
| 3. 'I didn't steal it.' He ____ stealing it. | 4. 'Why don't we go for a walk?' She ____ going. |
| 5. 'I'm sorry I was late.' She ____ being late. | 6. 'You never listen!' She ____ I never listened. |
| 7. 'Could you open the window?' He ____ me to open it. | 8. 'You lied to me!' She ____ him of lying. |
| 9. 'I'll definitely be there.' He ____ to be there. | 10. 'Let's start.' She ____ starting. |

4

Full reported speech practice

HARD

Report the sentence fully.

1. 'I have never been to Rome.' She said ____.

3. 'Are you free tomorrow?' She asked me ____.

5. 'We didn't know the answer.' They said ____.

7. 'I was working all night.' He explained ____.

9. 'Have you met her before?' He asked ____.

2. 'Leave immediately!' He told me ____.

4. 'I might come to the party.' He said ____.

6. 'Please don't make noise.' She asked me ____.

8. 'Stop complaining!' She told him ____.

10. 'I'll never do that again.' She promised ____.

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Backshifted statements

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 was tired | 6 could help |
| 2 worked there | 7 hadn't slept |
| 3 had finished | 8 might leave |
| 4 would rain | 9 were going |
| 5 had been waiting | 10 had been working |

2 Exercise 2 Reported questions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 where I lived | 6 why I was crying |
| 2 if/whether I was coming | 7 if/whether I could drive |
| 3 if/whether I had eaten | 8 what I would do |
| 4 what time it had started | 9 who had broken the window |
| 5 if/whether she had called me | 10 how long I had waited |

3 Exercise 3 Reporting verbs

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 promised | 6 complained that |
| 2 warned/told | 7 asked/requested |
| 3 denied | 8 accused |
| 4 suggested | 9 promised |
| 5 apologised for | 10 suggested |

4 Exercise 4 Full reported speech

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 she had never been to Rome | 6 not to make noise |
| 2 to leave immediately | 7 that he had been working all night |
| 3 if/whether I was free the next day | 8 to stop complaining |
| 4 he might come to the party | 9 if/whether I had met her before |
| 5 they hadn't known the answer | 10 never to do that again |