

C1 Reported Speech

Backshift, reporting verbs, mixed patterns

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

Backshift: will! 'would, can! 'could, must! 'had to, is! 'was.

1 Backshifting Tenses

EASY

Report the speech using correct backshift.

Word bank: would / had finished / was working

1. 'I will help.'! ' said he ____.

3. 'I'm working.'! ' said he ____.

5. 'I may leave.'! ' said he ____.

7. 'I did it.'! ' said he ____.

9. 'I would come.'! ' said he ____.

2. 'I have finished.'! ' said he ____.

4. 'I can do it.'! ' said he ____.

6. 'I must go.'! ' said he ____.

8. 'I had seen it.'! ' said he ____.

10. 'I was tired.'! ' said he ____.

2 Reporting Questions

MEDIUM

Report the question using correct form.

Word bank: if I would / where I lived

1. 'Will you help?'! ' asked if ____.

3. 'Have you finished?'! ' asked if ____.

5. 'Where do you live?'! ' asked ____.

7. 'What is your name?'! ' asked ____.

9. 'Who called?'! ' asked ____.

2. 'Are you coming?'! ' asked if ____.

4. 'Can you drive?'! ' asked if ____.

6. 'Why did she leave?'! ' asked ____.

8. 'Did you see him?'! ' asked if ____.

10. 'How long will it take?'! ' asked ____.

3 Reporting Verbs with Patterns

HARD

Choose the correct reporting verb pattern.

Word bank: taking / writing / reading / to / on paying

1. She admitted ____ the money.

3. She recommended ____ the book.

5. She persuaded him ____ stay.

7. She warned me ____ be late.

9. He refused ____ sign the papers.

2. He denied ____ the report.

4. They urged me ____ act quickly.

6. He insisted on ____ for it.

8. They suggested ____ a new plan.

10. She promised ____ be on time.

4

Full Reported Speech Rewrite

VERY HARD

Rewrite reported speech.

1. 'I will call you.' (promised)

3. 'I have seen it.' (said)

5. 'I stole the money.' (admitted)

7. 'You should rest.' (suggested)

9. 'I'll do it.' (agreed)

2. 'Don't be late!' (warned)

4. 'Can you help?' (asked if)

6. 'I didn't break it.' (denied)

8. 'Let's try again.' (proposed)

10. 'I won't go.' (refused)

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Backshifting Tenses

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 would help | 6 had to go |
| 2 had finished | 7 had done it |
| 3 was working | 8 had seen it |
| 4 could do it | 9 would come |
| 5 might leave | 10 had been tired |

2 Exercise 2 Reporting Questions

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 if I would help | 6 why she had left |
| 2 if I was coming | 7 what my name was |
| 3 if I had finished | 8 if I had seen him |
| 4 if I could drive | 9 who had called |
| 5 where I lived | 10 how long it would take |

3 Exercise 3 Reporting Verbs with Patterns

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 taking | 6 paying |
| 2 writing/having written | 7 not to |
| 3 reading | 8 trying / that they try |
| 4 to | 9 to |
| 5 to | 10 to |

4 Exercise 4 Full Reported Speech Rewrite

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 She promised to call me. | 6 He denied breaking it. |
| 2 He warned me not to be late. | 7 She suggested I should rest. |
| 3 She said she had seen it. | 8 He proposed trying again. |
| 4 He asked if I could help. | 9 She agreed to do it. |
| 5 She admitted stealing the money. | 10 He refused to go. |