Reported Speech — Worksheet

30 exercises · Level B1–B2 · Answer key on the last page Free for classroom use

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Choose the correct option (a–d) for each gap or question. Check yourself with the answer key on the last page.

1. On Monday Anna told us she _____ ill, but on Wednesday she came back to work.
   a) was b) is c) were d) be

2. Last week Sam said he _____ call me on Friday, but he never did.
   a) will b) would c) would to d) is going to

3. Two years ago my brother said he _____ swim, but now he swims every morning.
   a) couldn't b) can't c) couldn't to d) didn't can

4. Last year Tom said he _____ in Leeds, but now he lives in York.
   a) lives b) is living c) lived d) has lived

5. When I called Jo at eight, she said she _____ dinner, so I phoned back later.
   a) is cooking b) was cooking c) cooking d) were cooking

6. In the morning Ben told me he _____ his keys, but he found them in his coat at lunch.
   a) had lost b) has lost c) had lose d) have lost

7. "I like your new haircut," Ella said to me. She said she liked _____ new haircut.
   a) your b) her c) his d) my

8. On Friday Mia said she would send the report _____, and it arrived on Saturday.
   a) the next day b) tomorrow c) the day before d) yesterday

9. When I visited my uncle in 2020, he said he had sold his car three years _____.
   a) ago b) before c) after d) since

10. Back home, Dan said the camp had been great and he wanted to go _____ again.
    a) here b) where c) their d) there

11. The receptionist asked me _____ I had a reservation.
    a) that b) if c) do d) what

12. On my first day, a colleague asked me where _____.
    a) I lived b) did I live c) do I live d) lived I

13. This morning my neighbour asked me what time _____ home last night.
    a) did I come b) came I c) I came d) had I come

14. A tourist stopped me and asked where the station _____.
    a) was it b) is it c) it was d) was

15. Ollie asked me _____ he could borrow my bike for a few days.
a) that b) whether c) what d) said

16. The waiter asked us _____ dessert.
a) if did we want b) that we wanted c) if we wanted d) we wanted

17. The doctor told me _____ more water and get some rest.
a) drink b) to drink c) drinking d) that drink

18. My boss asked me _____ late for the meeting again.
a) don't be b) to don't be c) not to be d) not be

19. At dinner Max _____ that he was thinking of moving abroad.
a) told b) told to c) said me d) said

20. "I can't meet today," Rosa told me last week. She said she couldn't meet _____.
a) today b) the next day c) that day d) the day before

21. Jack _____ that he was tired, and he _____ us that he was going to bed.
a) told … said b) said … said c) told … told d) said … told

22. Kim asked _____ I was ready to leave, and I said _____ I needed five more minutes.
a) if … that b) that … if c) if … if d) that … that

23. "I'll meet you outside," Sara told her brothers. Sara promised _____ would meet _____ outside.
a) I … you b) her … them c) she … them d) she … they

24. Ana asked me _____ I liked jazz, and then she asked me _____ the music down.
a) that … turn b) if … to turn c) if … turning d) to … to turn

25. Whenever I phone, my grandmother says she _____ fine, but I can hear she's tired.
a) was b) be c) were d) is

26. Which sentence is correct?
a) He asked me where had I parked the car.
b) He asked me where I had parked the car.
c) He asked me where did I park the car.
d) He asked to me where I had parked the car.

27. Which sentence is correct?
a) She said me that she was leaving.
b) She told that she was leaving.
c) She told me that she was leaving.
d) She told to me that she was leaving.

28. Which sentence is correct?
a) The nurse told him don't move.
b) The nurse told him to not moving.
c) The nurse told him not move.
d) The nurse told him not to move.

29. Which sentence is correct?
a) I asked her if she was hungry.
b) I asked to her if she was hungry.
c) I asked her that she was hungry.
d) I asked her if was she hungry.

30. Which sentence is correct?
a) Last month Eva said she will start her new job the next week.
b) Last month Eva said she would start her new job the next week.
c) Last month Eva told she would start her new job the next week.
d) Last month Eva said she would started her new job the next week.

Answer Key

Reported Speech · Explanations are shortened — the full interactive version is at gramvoy.com/exercises/reported-speech/

1. a) was
She is no longer ill, so am moves back to was after told.

2. b) would
The Friday is already past — he never did — so will moves back to would.

3. a) couldn't
That is no longer true — he swims now — so can't moves back to couldn't.

4. c) lived
But now he lives in York shows the situation is over, so the present…

5. b) was cooking
"I'm cooking" moves back to the past continuous was cooking: the…

6. a) had lost
He found the keys, so "I've lost my keys" is no longer true: the…

7. d) my
Ella said your to me, so when I report it, the haircut is mine: my new…

8. a) the next day
Mia said tomorrow on Friday, but that day is past now, so it becomes…

9. b) before
Ago counts back from today, so three years ago would be after the 2020…

10. d) there
Dan is back home, not at the camp, so the camp's here becomes there.

11. b) if
The question was "Do you have a reservation?" — a yes/no question — so…

12. a) I lived
A reported question takes statement word order — subject, then verb —…

13. c) I came
The direct question was "What time did you come home?" In reported…

14. d) was
"Where is the station?" becomes where the station was: the subject the…

15. b) whether
"Can I borrow your bike?" is a yes/no question, so it is reported with…

16. c) if we wanted
"Do you want dessert?" is a yes/no question, so it is reported with if…

17. b) to drink
An instruction is reported with tell + person + to + base form: told me…

18. c) not to be
"Don't be late" is a negative request, reported with ask + person + not…

19. d) said
No listener is named, so the verb is said.

20. c) that day
Rosa said today last week, and that day is not today any more, so it…

21. d) said … told
In the first gap no person follows, so said; in the second the listener…

22. a) if … that
Kim asked a yes/no question, so if; I answered with a statement, so…

23. c) she … them
Reported from outside the conversation, Sara's I becomes she and you…

24. b) if … to turn
The first is a question, so asked me if + a clause; the second is a…

25. d) is
The reporting verb says is in the present, so the tense doesn't move…

26. b) He asked me where I had parked the car.
A reported question keeps statement word order: where I had parked.

27. c) She told me that she was leaving.
Tell is followed directly by the listener: She told me that… Say can't…

28. d) The nurse told him not to move.
A negative command is reported with tell + person + not to + base form:…

29. a) I asked her if she was hungry.
A yes/no question is reported with if and statement word order: if she…

30. b) Last month Eva said she would start her new job the next week.
The start date is already past, so will becomes would, followed by the…