

Reported Speech – Test 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30



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answers instantly

Choose the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Tenses, modals and time references

Choose the option that correctly completes the reported sentence.

- "I may be late for dinner," Kofi said. Kofi said he _____ late for dinner.
A may to be B might be C might been D would being
- "I moved to Lisbon two years ago," Elena said. (Reported many years later.) Elena said she had moved to Lisbon two years _____.
A ago B since C before D later
- "We arrived yesterday," the tourists told the receptionist. (Reported a week later.) The tourists told the receptionist they had arrived _____.
A yesterday B the day before C the next day D tomorrow
- "I'd already left when the storm started," Ben said. Ben said he _____ when the storm started.
A had already left B has already left
C would already leave D had already been left
- Amir is on the phone right now: "The flight is delayed." Amir says the flight _____ delayed.
A was B had been C is D would be
- "I need an answer now," the client said. (Reported the following week.) The client said she needed an answer _____.
A now B then C the following day D before
- "You could take the earlier bus," Wei said to me. Wei said I _____ the earlier bus.
A could have taken B can take C would can take D could take
- "I've been waiting here for an hour," Diego said. Diego said he _____ there for an hour.
A has been waiting B had been waiting C was waited D had waiting

Part 2: Reported questions

Choose the correct option. Pay attention to word order and question words.

- "Shall we meet at six?" Rosa asked. Rosa asked if _____ meet at six.
A should we B we shall to C we should D did we should
- "Who left the door open?" Mr Novak asked. Mr Novak asked _____ the door open.
A who had left B who had he left C who did leave D whom had left
- "How long have you been studying Japanese?" the interviewer asked Tariq. The interviewer asked Tariq how long _____ Japanese.
A had he been studying B he has been studying
C he had been studying D did he study

12. "Do I have to bring my passport?" Ines asked. Ines asked whether she _____ her passport.
A has to bring **B** had to bring **C** must to bring **D** did have to bring
13. Choose the correct sentence.
A She wanted to know where was the nearest pharmacy.
B She wanted to know where is the nearest pharmacy.
C She wanted to know where the nearest pharmacy was?
D She wanted to know where the nearest pharmacy was.
14. "Did you enjoy the concert or not?" Yuki asked me. Yuki asked me _____ I had enjoyed the concert.
A if or not **B** that **C** did **D** whether or not
15. "How much does this jacket cost?" Lin asked the shop assistant. Lin asked the shop assistant how much _____.
A did the jacket cost **B** the jacket cost
C costs the jacket **D** the jacket did cost
16. Which part of the sentence contains an error? My neighbour asked me how long did I live in the building.
A My neighbour asked me **B** how long
C did I live **D** in the building

Part 3: Reporting verbs

Choose the reporting verb or verb pattern that correctly reports the original words.

17. "Don't swim near the rocks," the lifeguard said to us. The lifeguard warned us _____ near the rocks.
A to not swimming **B** don't swim **C** not swimming **D** not to swim
18. "I'll pay for the meal – I insist!" Hiro said. Hiro insisted _____ for the meal.
A on paying **B** to pay **C** paying **D** on pay
19. "I won't sign the contract," the actor said. The actor _____ to sign the contract.
A denied **B** refused **C** avoided **D** objected
20. "Yes, I took your charger," Lena said to me. Lena admitted _____ my charger.
A to take **B** that took **C** taking **D** for taking
21. "Congratulations on passing your driving test!" Aunt Ruth said to me. Aunt Ruth congratulated me _____ my driving test.
A for pass **B** on passing **C** to pass **D** that I passed
22. "You lost the tickets – it's your fault!" Kai said to Mira. Kai blamed Mira _____ the tickets.
A of losing **B** to lose **C** about losing **D** for losing
23. "If you're late again, I'll call your parents," the coach said to Ivan. The coach _____ to call Ivan's parents if he was late again.
A threatened **B** warned **C** insisted **D** suggested
24. "Please, please don't tell anyone!" Noor said to me. Noor _____ me not to tell anyone.
A suggested **B** promised **C** begged **D** apologised
25. "I think you should try the fish," the waiter said to us. The waiter recommended _____ the fish.
A us to trying **B** that we try **C** to us trying **D** us try

Part 4: Reported speech in context

Read the email and choose the best option for each gap. Then answer the final question.

Hi Sam,

You asked me how my job interview went, so here's the full story. When I arrived, the receptionist asked me (1) ___ an appointment. I explained that I was there to see Ms Okafor at ten. After a few minutes, Ms Okafor came out. She said that she was sorry and that the previous interview (2) ___ longer than expected.

The interview itself was friendly. Ms Okafor asked me what I enjoyed most about my work and why I (3) ___ to leave my current job. At the end, she told me she (4) ___ me a decision by the end of the week. Fingers crossed!

Best wishes,

Julia

26. Gap (1): The receptionist asked me _____ an appointment.
A did I have **B** if had I **C** if I had **D** that I had
27. Gap (2): She said that the previous interview _____ longer than expected.
A has taken **B** had taken **C** takes **D** was took
28. Gap (3): She asked me why I _____ to leave my current job.
A did I want **B** do I want **C** had I wanted **D** wanted
29. Gap (4): She told me she _____ me a decision by the end of the week.
A would give **B** would giving **C** gives **D** had given
30. What were Ms Okafor's exact words at the end of the interview?
A "I would give you a decision by the end of the week."
B "She'll give you a decision by the end of the week."
C "I'll give you a decision by the end of the week."
D "I gave you a decision by the end of the week."

Answer key – Reported Speech – Test 2

1 B	2 C	3 B	4 A	5 C	6 B	7 D	8 B	9 C	10 A
11 C	12 B	13 D	14 D	15 B	16 C	17 D	18 A	19 B	20 C
21 B	22 D	23 A	24 C	25 B	26 C	27 B	28 D	29 A	30 C

Explanations

1. **B** – 'May' usually becomes 'might' in reported speech, followed by the base form 'be'.
2. **C** – When reporting much later, 'ago' changes to 'before'.
3. **B** – 'Yesterday' becomes 'the day before' (or 'the previous day') when the report is made later.
4. **A** – The past perfect cannot move further back, so it stays the same.
5. **C** – With a present reporting verb ('says'), the tense does not change.
6. **B** – 'Now' usually becomes 'then' when the situation is reported later.
7. **D** – 'Could' does not change in reported speech.
8. **B** – The present perfect continuous changes to the past perfect continuous.
9. **C** – 'Shall' in a suggestion becomes 'should', and reported questions use statement word order.
10. **A** – 'Who' is the subject here, so it is followed directly by the backshifted verb 'had left'.
11. **C** – Reported questions use statement word order (subject before verb) and backshift the tense.
12. **B** – 'Have to' changes to 'had to', and the auxiliary 'do' is not used in reported questions.
13. **D** – A reported question uses statement word order and ends with a full stop, not a question mark.
14. **D** – 'Or not' can directly follow 'whether', but not 'if'.
15. **B** – The auxiliary 'does' disappears, and the verb moves into the past with normal subject–verb order.
16. **C** – It should be 'I had lived': reported questions do not use inverted word order or 'did'.
17. **D** – 'Warn' takes the pattern 'warn someone not to do something'.
18. **A** – 'Insist' is followed by 'on' + -ing form.
19. **B** – Only 'refuse' is followed by 'to' + infinitive; the others take -ing or 'to' + -ing.
20. **C** – 'Admit' is followed by the -ing form (or 'that' + subject + verb).
21. **B** – The pattern is 'congratulate someone on' + -ing form.
22. **D** – The pattern is 'blame someone for' + -ing form.
23. **A** – 'Threaten to do something' reports a warning of punishment; the other verbs cannot be followed by 'to call' here.
24. **C** – 'Beg someone not to do something' reports an urgent, emotional request.
25. **B** – 'Recommend' can be followed by 'that' + subject + base form.
26. **C** – Reported yes/no questions use 'if' or 'whether' + statement word order.
27. **B** – The past simple 'took' backshifts to the past perfect 'had taken'.
28. **D** – 'Why do you want...?' becomes 'why I wanted', with no auxiliary and statement word order.
29. **A** – 'Will' becomes 'would' and is followed by the base form.
30. **C** – In direct speech the speaker uses 'I' and the original future form 'will' ('I'll').

Notes for teachers: Use this test after teaching backshift, reported questions and reporting verb patterns. It targets typical B2 errors: question word order in reported questions, 'if or not' instead of 'whether or not', wrong patterns after verbs such as insist, admit, blame and refuse, and unchanged time words like 'yesterday' or 'now'. As a follow-up, ask students to report a real conversation in pairs. They should use at least five different reporting verbs.