ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Indirect Speech MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 1

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/indirect-speech-test-1/

1	**C**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**A**	5	**B**	6	**C**	7	**A**	8	**B**	9	**C**	10	**D**
11	**B**	12	**C**	13	**A**	14	**E**	15	**B**	16	**B**	17	**B**	18	**C**	19	**D**	20	**B**

Explanations

1. The teacher promised _____.
✓ **C) we would learn three English songs.**
After a past reporting verb like **promised**, **will** changes to **would**: "You will learn three songs" → **The teacher promised we would learn three English songs.** Not **that we learned**, because a promise is about the future, not the past.

2. Bill: "Have you seen any interesting comedy lately, Nancy?" Bill asked Nancy _____.
✓ **D) if she had seen any interesting comedy lately**
A yes/no question is reported with **if** and normal word order. The present perfect **have you seen** moves back to the past perfect **had seen**, and **you** becomes **she** (Nancy).

3. Nick: "Did you see a bird in the tree?" Nick wonders _____ in the tree.
✓ **A) if I saw a bird**
The reporting verb **wonders** is in the present, so the tense does not move back: **Did you see…?** → **Nick wonders if I saw a bird.** Not **if I had seen**, because we only change the tense after a past reporting verb.

4. **Dick to Lucy:** Have you received my telegram? Dick asked if _____.
✓ **A) Lucy had received his telegram.**
After **asked**, the present perfect **have received** moves back to the past perfect **had received**. **My** becomes **his** because Dick is talking about his own telegram. Not **had Lucy received**, because a reported question uses normal word order (subject before verb).

5. Ann: Write down my address. Ann asked me _____.
✓ **B) to write down her address**
Commands and requests are reported with **asked/told + person + to + verb**: **Ann asked me to write down her address. My** becomes **her** because it is Ann's address.

6. He said, "I'm very busy today." He said _____.
✓ **C) he was very busy that day**
After **He said**, the present simple **am** moves back to the past simple **was**, and **today** becomes **that day**: **He said he was very busy that day.** Not **had been**, because that is the change for the past simple or present perfect, not the present simple.

7. Lena asked Kate, "Where were you yesterday?" Lena asked Kate _____.
✓ **A) where she had been the day before.**
In reported speech, the past simple **were** moves back to the past perfect **had been**, and **yesterday** becomes **the day before**. After **where**, use normal word order: **where she had been**. Not **where had she been** or **where was she**, because a reported question has no question word order.

8. He wondered, "What am I going to do?" He wondered _____.
✓ **B) what he was going to do**
In a reported question, keep the question word (**what**) and use normal word order: subject + verb. **Am going to** moves back to **was going to**: **He wondered what he was going to do.** Not **what was he going to do**, because a reported question has no question word order.

9. Mother asked me _____.
✓ **C) if I had spent all the money**
A reported yes/no question uses **if** (or **whether**) after **asked**. The past reporting verb needs a past tense, here the past perfect: **Mother asked me if I had spent all the money.** Not **that I had spent**, because **that** is used for statements, not questions.

10. "Don't play in the street!"
✓ **D) My mother told me not to play in the street.**
A negative command is reported with **told + person + not to + verb**: **My mother told me not to play in the street.** Not **told me don't play**, because we cannot use **don't** after **told me**.

11. Ann: "Is your sister good at English?" Ann asked me _____.
✓ **B) if my sister was good at English**
A yes/no question is reported with **if** or **whether** and normal word order. After **asked**, **is** moves back to **was**, and **your sister** becomes **my sister**: **Ann asked me if my sister was good at English.**

12. Tom: "Don't forget to bring my book, Ann." Tom asked Ann _____.
✓ **C) not to forget to bring his book**
A negative request is reported with **asked + person + not to + verb**: **Tom asked Ann not to forget to bring his book. My** becomes **his** because the book belongs to Tom. Not **her book**, because it is Tom's book, not Ann's.

13. Mother: “We are going to have supper.” Mother says _____.
✓ A) they are going to have supper
The reporting verb **says** is in the present, so the tense does not change: **are going to** stays the same. Only the pronoun changes: **we** → **they**. Not **were going to**, because we only move tenses back after a past reporting verb.

14. Jack said: “I was at home yesterday.” Jack said _____.
✓ E) he had been at home the day before.
After **Jack said**, the past simple **was** moves back to the past perfect **had been**, and **yesterday** becomes **the day before**. Not **he was at home**, because it leaves out the time, and the option starting **Jack said** repeats words already in the sentence.

15. “Do you go in for sports?” he asked. He asked _____.
✓ B) if I went in for sports.
A yes/no question is reported with **if** and normal word order. After **asked**, the present simple **go** moves back to the past simple **went**, and **you** becomes **I**: **He asked if I went in for sports.**

16. “Will Tom help me?” she said. She asked _____.
✓ B) if Tom would help her
A yes/no question is reported with **if/whether** and normal word order, and **will** moves back to **would**: **She asked if Tom would help her.** Not **whether would he help her**, because a reported question has no question word order.

17. Peter said, “Alice, are you busy now?” Peter asked Alice _____.
✓ B) if she was busy then.
A yes/no question is reported with **if**. After **asked**, **are** moves back to **was**, and **now** becomes **then**: **Peter asked Alice if she was busy then.** Not **she was busy** without **if**, because a reported question needs **if** or **whether**.

18. My sister said: “I hope we shall go on an excursion to the lake”. My sister said that _____ on an excursion to the lake.
✓ C) she hoped they would go
After **said**, the tenses move back: **hope** → **hoped** and **shall** → **would**. **I** becomes **she**, and **we** becomes **they**: **My sister said that she hoped they would go on an excursion to the lake.** Not **they had gone**, because the trip was in the future, not the past.

19. Jim and Julia have been in the restaurant for an hour and they have not been served yet. Julia is angry. “You said _____ a good place.”
✓ D) it was
When what someone said turns out not to be true, we must use the past tense in reported speech: **You said it was a good place** (but it isn't). Not **it is**, because Julia does not agree that it is a good place now.

20. “Did you work at a factory 3 years ago?” she asked her friend. She asked her friend if she _____.
✓ B) had worked at a factory 3 years before
After **asked**, the past simple **worked** moves back to the past perfect **had worked**, and **ago** becomes **before**: **She asked her friend if she had worked at a factory 3 years before.** Not **worked at a factory 3 years ago**, because in that option the tense has not moved back and **ago** has not changed to **before**.

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