ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reported Speech Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 32

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Explanations

1. "I'm going to Istanbul tomorrow," he said.

He said _____ going to Istanbul _____.
✔ **E) he was / the next day**
In reported speech after a past reporting verb, **I** becomes **he**, **am going** usually moves back to **was going**, and **tomorrow** becomes **the next day** (or **the following day**): **He said he was going to Istanbul the next day.** Not **the previous day**, which means yesterday. **He will going** is not grammatical.

2. "I'll give you half of the money if you keep your mouth shut," he said to me.

He _____ mouth shut.
✔ **C) offered me half of the money if I kept my**
I'll give you… is an offer, so the reporting verb is **offer** (**offer somebody something**). The conditional moves back: **if you keep** becomes **if I kept my mouth shut**. **Promised me half of the money for my mouth shut** is not a natural English structure.

3. "I am sorry I am late," he said. "My car broke down."

He _____ and _____.
✔ **E) apologized for being late / explained that his car had broken down**
I am sorry I am late is an apology, reported as **apologize for + -ing** (**apologized for being late**). The reason is reported with **explain that…**, and the past simple **broke down** moves back to the past perfect **had broken down**. **Excused himself** means he politely left, so it does not fit.

4. He _____ so often in Turkey.
✔ **D) asked why prices went up**
A reported question uses statement word order (no **do/did** and no inversion), and after a past reporting verb the tense usually moves back: **Why do prices go up? → He asked why prices went up**. **Asked what did prices go up for**, **asked why is the price going up** and **wondered why do prices go up** all keep question word order. **Wanted to learn** does not make sense with **so often in Turkey**.

5. "How far is it?" he said, "and how long will it take me to get there?"

He _____ to get there.
✔ **E) asked how far it was and how long it would take**
Both questions are reported with **ask** + question word + statement order, with tenses moved back: **How far is it? → how far it was**, **How long will it take? → how long it would take**. Not **asked how far and how long it would take him**, because the first question has lost its verb (**it was**).

6. "Climb up the tree," he said to me.

He _____ the tree.
✔ **D) ordered me to climb up**
An imperative (**Climb up the tree**) is reported with a verb such as **order/tell/ask** + object + **to**-infinitive: **He ordered me to climb up the tree**. **Said to me to climb** is not standard (we use **told me to**), and **asked me to climbed** uses the wrong verb form.

7. "Don't use pens!" said the teacher. The teacher _____ in the exam.
✔ **B) warned us not to use pens**
A negative command is reported with **warn** + object + **not to** + infinitive: **Don't use pens! → The teacher warned us not to use pens**. **Warned us to use pens** reverses the meaning, and **warned if we used pens** is not a correct pattern.

8. He wanted me to explain _____.
✔ **D) what the main problem was**
Reported (embedded) questions use statement word order: subject before verb, with the tense moved back after a past verb: **What was the main problem? → explain what the main problem was**. Options like **where did the problem start** and **why didn't he come** keep question word order. **Whom** cannot be the subject of **takes**.

9. He warned me _____ anyone about the subject we _____ about the day before.
✔ **A) not to tell / spoke**
Warn + object + **not to** + infinitive reports a negative warning: **He warned me not to tell anyone**. In the relative clause, the past simple **spoke about** is acceptable with **the day before**. Not **not telling**, **not told** or **not to have told**, which break the **warn somebody (not) to do** pattern.

10. "Come in and look round. We do not charge anything for looking," said the shopkeeper. The shopkeeper _____ us to come in and look around _____ us that he didn't require any amount for looking.
✔ D) invited / assuring
Come in and look round is an invitation, so we use **invite somebody to do something**. The second sentence reassures the customers, reported with a participle clause: **…, assuring us that…**. **To assure** would suggest purpose, and **called** or **showed** do not fit the **to**-infinitive pattern.

11. "I'll drop you from the team if you don't train harder," said the trainer. The trainer _____ to drop us from the team if we _____ harder.
✔ C) threatened / didn't train
A warning of punishment is reported with **threaten to** + infinitive: **The trainer threatened to drop us**. In the **if**-clause, **don't train** moves back to **didn't train**. **Warned to drop us** is wrong, because **warn** needs an object, and **wouldn't train** puts **would** in the **if**-clause.

12. We _____ all _____ that the meeting would begin in an hour.
✔ A) were / informed
The passive **be informed that…** means somebody told us: **We were all informed that the meeting would begin in an hour**. **Had informed** would need an object (**had informed them**), and **affirmed**/**acknowledged** have the wrong meaning.

13. "You have been leaking information to the journalists!" said the minister. "No, I haven't," said John. The minister _____ leaking information but John _____ it.
✔ B) accused him of / denied
Saying someone did something wrong is reported with **accuse somebody of + -ing**: **accused him of leaking information**. John says **No, I haven't**, so he **denied** it. Not **admitted**, which would mean he said yes.

14. "I won't answer any questions," said the thief. The thief _____ to answer any questions.
✔ D) refused
I won't answer expresses unwillingness, reported with **refuse to** + infinitive: **The thief refused to answer any questions**. Not **denied**, which is followed by **-ing** or a **that**-clause and means saying something isn't true.

15. "You pressed the wrong button," said the engineer. "Don't do it again."

The engineer _____ that I had pressed the wrong button and he _____ it again.
✔ C) pointed out / warned me not to do
Drawing attention to a mistake is reported with **point out that…**, and a negative command with **warn somebody not to do**: **he pointed out that I had pressed the wrong button and warned me not to do it again**. Not **told me not to have done**, because the perfect infinitive refers to the past, not to a future action.

16. "Yippee! I've passed the final exam," he exclaimed. "Congratulations!" I said.

He _____ that he had passed the final exam and I _____ him.
✔ E) exclaimed with delight / congratulated
Yippee! shows joy, so **exclaimed with delight** reports it well. **Congratulations!** is reported with the verb **congratulate**: **I congratulated him**. **Comforted** means making someone feel better when they are sad, which does not fit good news.

17. "Cigarette?" he said. "No, thanks," I said.

He _____ me a cigarette but I _____.
✔ C) offered / refused
Cigarette? is an offer, so **he offered me a cigarette**. **No, thanks** turns the offer down, so **I refused**. Not **denied**, which means saying something is not true.

18. "You have gained weight!" I said. "I am afraid I have," he replied sadly.

I noted that he _____ weight and he admitted that he _____.
✔ B) had gained / had
The present perfect **have gained** moves back to the past perfect **had gained** in reported speech. The short answer **I have** likewise becomes **he had**. **Gained / did** ignores the backshift, and **would gain** changes the meaning to the future.

19. He said his car _____.
✔ E) had been stolen the day before
My car was stolen yesterday becomes **his car had been stolen the day before**: the past passive moves back to the past perfect passive, and **yesterday** becomes **the day before** / **the previous day**. Not **the following day**, which means **tomorrow**.

20. "I will inform her that I saw you." She said that she _____ her that she _____ me.
✔ B) would inform / had seen
In reported speech, **will** becomes **would**, and the past simple **saw** usually moves back to the past perfect **had seen**: **She said that she would inform her that she had seen me.** Not **had informed**, because the informing was still in the future when she spoke. **Would have informed** refers to an unreal past, and **has seen** is not backshifted.

21. "They are getting married next week."

She said that they _____.
✔ D) were getting married the following week
The present continuous **are getting** moves back to the past continuous **were getting**, and **next week** becomes **the following week**: **She said that they were getting married the following week**. **The week before** and **the previous week** would point to the past, which changes the meaning.

22. She said that her dog _____.
✔ D) had been stolen the previous night
My dog was stolen last night becomes **her dog had been stolen the previous night**: the past moves back to the past perfect passive, and **last night** becomes **the previous night**. Options with **the next/following day** make no sense for a theft that has already happened.

23. "Do you want a cup of coffee?"

He _____ me a cup of coffee.
✓ D) offered
Do you want a cup of coffee? is an offer, so we report it with **offer somebody something**: **He offered me a cup of coffee**.

24. "Can you lend me some money until next week?"

He _____ some money from me.
✓ E) asked to borrow
Can you lend me some money? is a polite request to use someone's money for a time, so it is reported as **He asked to borrow some money from me.** Not **offered**, which means the opposite: giving, not asking. **Proposed**, **denied** and **rejected** do not report a request.

25. "I must confess that I ate the cake last night."

She _____ that she had eaten the cake.
✓ C) admitted
I must confess means she is saying she did something wrong, so the reporting verb is **admit**: **She admitted that she had eaten the cake**. Not **denied**, which means the opposite (saying she didn't do it).

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