ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Reported Speech Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 33

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## Explanations

**1.** He told me that he _____ come if he could finish work early.
✔ **D) would**
In reported speech after a past reporting verb (**told**), **will** usually moves back to **would**. The if-clause **if he could finish work early** is also backshifted (can → could), so **would come** fits. His original words were "I will come if I can finish work early." Not **will**: the main verb must move back too, to match **could** in the if-clause. **Must come** does not fit a promise that depends on a condition.

**2.** He said that he _____ the sea bus the following day.
✔ **E) would catch**
The original words were "I **will catch** the sea bus tomorrow." After **said**, **will** changes to **would**, and **tomorrow** changes to **the following day**, so **would catch** is correct. **Will catch** and **is going to catch** are not backshifted, and **catched** is not a real form (the past of **catch** is **caught**).

**3.** I said, "Two fixed menus for us, please."

I _____ our meal.
✔ **D) ordered**
Asking a waiter for food ("Two fixed menus for us, please") is **ordering**: **to order a meal** means to ask for food in a restaurant. **Suggested** and **proposed** would mean offering an idea to someone else, not asking for the food itself.

**4.** We all know that she informed the teacher about the cheating but she says she didn't. She _____ it.
✔ **D) denied**
**Deny** means to say that something is not true or that you did not do it. She says she didn't inform the teacher, so she **denied** it. **Admitted** is the opposite: it would mean she agreed that she had done it.

**5.** I first wanted to take English and Math in summer school but my teacher helped me to make up my mind to take one more lesson. My teacher _____ me to take three lessons this summer.
✔ **D) persuaded**
**Persuade someone to do something** means to make someone decide to do it by giving reasons. The teacher helped the speaker **make up his mind** to take one more lesson, so the teacher **persuaded** him. **Agreed** is not possible: we say **agree to do something**, not **agree someone to do**.

**6.** Tom says that Jane is lying but he cannot prove it. Tom is _____ that Jane is lying.
✔ **D) claiming**
**Claim** means to say that something is true even though it has not been proved. The clue is **he cannot prove it**, so Tom is **claiming** that Jane is lying. **Complaining** would mean expressing that he is unhappy about something, which is not the point here.

**7.** "We want to go to Sultanahmet," the tourists said.

They said that _____ to go to Sultanahmet.
✔ **E) they wanted**
In reported speech, the pronoun changes to match the speakers (**we** becomes **they**), and the present simple moves back to the past simple (**want** becomes **wanted**): **They said that they wanted to go to Sultanahmet.** Not **them wanted**: the subject of the clause needs the subject pronoun **they**. **They would want** changes the meaning to something hypothetical.

**8.** "Do not touch these cables," the mechanic said.

He _____ the cables.
✔ **C) warned us not to touch**
A negative command about danger ("Do not touch these cables") is reported with **warn someone not to do something**: **He warned us not to touch the cables. Recommends us not to touch** is in the wrong tense and does not express danger, and **requested us to touch** reverses the meaning.

**9.** "If I were you, I would stay at a less expensive hotel and spend more on extras."

He _____ us to stay at a cheaper hotel.
✔ **D) recommended**
"If I were you, I would ..." is a typical way of giving advice, so the reporting verb is **recommend**: **He recommended us to stay at a cheaper hotel** (also **He recommended that we stay ...**). Not **insisted**: it is followed by **on** + **-ing** or a **that**-clause (**insisted on our staying**), never by **us to**, and it is much stronger than friendly advice.

**10.** "I am leaving the city tomorrow," the lecturer said.

He said _____ leaving the city _____.
✔ **D) he was / the following day**
In reported speech, **I** becomes **he**, the present continuous **am leaving** becomes **was leaving**, and **tomorrow** becomes **the following day** (or **the next day**). Only **he was / the following day** changes all three correctly. **That day** would replace **today**, not **tomorrow**.

**11.** "He is coming today," the mother said.

She said that he _____.
**✔ C) was coming that day**
The present continuous **is coming** becomes **was coming**, and **today** becomes **that day**: **She said that he was coming that day. The day before** and **the following day** would replace **yesterday** and **tomorrow**, not **today**.

**12.** "I came here last week," he said.

He said he _____ here _____.
**✔ E) had come / the previous week**
The past simple **came** moves back to the past perfect **had come**, and **last week** changes to **the previous week** (or **the week before**): **He said he had come here the previous week. Had come / last week** keeps the original time word, which is wrong when the report is made later.

**13.** He said that he _____ the sea bus the day before.
**✔ E) had missed**
**The day before** replaces **yesterday**, so the original words were "I **missed** the sea bus yesterday." In reported speech the past simple moves back to the past perfect: **he had missed**. **Has missed** is wrong because the present perfect cannot be used with a finished past time like **the day before**.

**14.** "Go to the blackboard," said the teacher.

The teacher _____ to the blackboard.
**✔ E) ordered me to go**
An imperative ("Go to the blackboard") is reported with a verb of command + object + **to**-infinitive: **The teacher ordered me to go to the blackboard. Recommended me to go** turns a command into advice, and **asked me to went** uses the wrong verb form after **to**.

**15.** "I am sorry I couldn't come because I missed the last bus last night."

He _____ and _____.
**✔ C) apologized for not coming / explained the reason**
"I am sorry I couldn't come" is an apology, reported as **apologize for** + **-ing**: **He apologized for not coming**. The second part ("because I missed the last bus") gives the reason, so **and explained the reason**. The other options misuse verbs: **mention about** is wrong (**mention** takes no preposition), **accuse** and **blame** mean saying someone did something wrong, and **denied not coming** reverses the meaning.

**16.** "Are you really behind what you have said?" asked the manager.

The manager asked him _____.
**✔ D) if he could stand behind his words**
To **be behind** or **stand behind** what you say means to fully support your own words and be ready to defend them. A yes/no question is reported with **if** or **whether** + statement word order and backshifted tenses: **The manager asked him if he could stand behind his words.** The other options either change the meaning, use the wrong pronoun (**I**), or don't backshift the tense (**is**, **has talked**).

**17.** "Is she suitable for the job of manager's secretary?" asked the staff manager.

He asked me _____.
**✔ C) whether she had enough qualifications for the job or not**
A yes/no question is reported with **whether (... or not)** or **if**, statement word order and a backshifted tense. Asking whether someone is **suitable** for a job is asking whether she has the right **qualifications**: **He asked me whether she had enough qualifications for the job or not. Her qualifications** alone is ungrammatical after **asked me** (it needs **about**). **If she can accept** is not backshifted, and the other options ask about different things (start date, salary).

**18.** "You simply must have some cookies with your tea!" my aunt said, although I had told her that I did not like them at all.

She _____ that I should eat some cookies with tea.
**✔ E) insisted**
**Insist** means to say firmly that something must happen, especially when someone else does not want it. The aunt says **You simply must** even though the speaker dislikes the cookies, so she **insisted that I should eat** some. **Protested** would mean she objected to something, and **promised** does not fit an order like this.

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