Reported speech: share what someone said

10 practice questions • Padworth Learning Studio

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. “I am busy,” Maya said. Later: Maya said ___ busy.

I was / she was / she is being

My answer: _____

2. “We have finished,” they said. Later: They said they ___ finished.

had / have been / were

My answer: _____

3. He told ___ that the room was ready.

me / to me / for me

My answer: _____

4. She said ___ that she needed help.

me / to me / for me

My answer: _____

5. “I can help,” Sam said. Later: Sam said he ___ help.

could / must / should

My answer: _____

6. Yesterday she said, “I am tired.” Report it with past backshift.

She said she is tiring. / She said she was tired. / She said I am tired.

My answer: _____

7. He said to me, “I will call you.” Report it with backshift.

He told me he would call me. / He told me he will called me. / He said me he would call you.

My answer: _____

8. Report “Where do you live?” as a question she asked me.

She asked me where did I live. / She asked me where I did lived. / She asked me where I lived.

My answer: _____

9. Report the instruction “Close the door.”

He said me to close the door. / He told me to close the door. / He told me close the door.

My answer: _____

10. Report “Don’t touch it.”

She told us not to touch it. / She told us to not touched it. / She said us not touch it.

My answer: _____

Answer key & explanations

1. **she was** — The pronoun changes to she; was fits the past reporting viewpoint.

2. **had** — Present perfect commonly backshifts to past perfect.

3. **me** — Tell takes a direct person object: told me.

4. **to me** — Say uses to before the listener: said to me.

5. **could** — Can commonly becomes could when reported from a past viewpoint.

6. **She said she was tired.** — Am backshifts to was, and I changes to she when reporting her words.

7. **He told me he would call me.** — Will backshifts to would; tell takes an object, and pronouns change with the speaker and listener.

8. **She asked me where I lived.** — Reported questions use statement word order and do not keep the question auxiliary did.

9. **He told me to close the door.** — Report an instruction with told plus an object and a to-infinitive.

10. **She told us not to touch it.** — The standard negative reported instruction uses told plus object plus not to and the base verb.