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Basics. Reported Statements: Tense and Time Shifts

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Adverb | Determiner | Future tense | Indirect speech | Modal verb | Object | Past tense | Pronoun | Sentence | Verb | Verb tense | Perfect tense | Progressive tense | Simple tense

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1. You are copying your friend's notes from an astronomy lecture that you slept through. Select ALL the grammatically valid ways to report the professor's statement.

Professor Higgins's exact words: "Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system."

Select all that apply.

A) Professor Higgins stated that Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system.
B) Professor Higgins stated that Jupiter was the largest planet in our solar system.
C) Professor Higgins stated if Jupiter was the largest planet in our solar system.
D) Professor Higgins told us that Jupiter been the largest planet in our solar system.

2. Help the entertainment journalist finalize her article about the reclusive actor by selecting the correct reported speech forms.

In the exclusive interview, the actor revealed that he _____ on a secret sci-fi film. He also mentioned that he _____ such a captivating script in his entire career.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) is working
B) was working
C) has worked

Blank 2
A) has never read
B) had never read
C) never reads

3. Help the news anchor summarize yesterday's rather ridiculous weather forecast.

Original quote: "It will rain frogs tomorrow!"

Yesterday, the forecaster warned that it _____ rain frogs _____.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) would
B) will
C) must

Blank 2
A) the following day
B) tomorrow
C) today

4. Reconstruct the office gossip by dragging the correct words into this email draft to a coworker.

Our manager announced that the board _____ to cancel _____ controversial marketing campaign. She explained that she _____ the team to focus entirely on the upcoming merger instead.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) has decided
B) had decided
C) decides

Blank 2

- **A)** this
- **B)** that
- **C)** these

Blank 3

- **A)** wants
- **B)** wanted
- **C)** wanting

5. The town's rather unreliable psychic made a grand declaration yesterday. Select ALL the sentences that correctly report her prophecy with the appropriate shifts in time and place.

Madam Zelda's exact words: "I will find the cursed amulet here tomorrow!"

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Madam Zelda announced that she would find the cursed amulet there the next day.
- **B)** Madam Zelda announced she would find the cursed amulet there the following day.
- **C)** Madam Zelda announced that she will find the cursed amulet here tomorrow.
- **D)** Madam Zelda told that she would find the cursed amulet there the next day.

6. Help the party planner correctly report Sandra's rather unusual kitchen activities. Choose the grammatically correct reported statement.

Sandra told me, "I am baking a tuna cake for my dog today."

Select one.

- **A)** Sandra told me that she is baking a tuna cake for her dog today.
- **B)** Sandra told me that she was baking a tuna cake for her dog that day.
- **C)** Sandra said me that she was baking a tuna cake for her dog that day.
- **D)** Sandra told me that she had been baking a tuna cake for her dog today.

7. Complete the detective's official police report by changing the suspect's defensive statement into reported speech.

Original quote: "I have never seen this diamond!"

The suspect claimed that he _____ _____ diamond.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** has never seen
- **B)** never saw
- **C)** had never seen

Blank 2

- **A)** that
- **B)** this
- **C)** these

8. Complete the detective's official report by correctly adapting the witness's direct statements ("I will contact the authorities tomorrow. I can't find the documents here.").

The witness stated that she _____ the authorities _____. She also claimed that she couldn't find her missing documents _____ in the study.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** will contact
- **B)** would contact
- **C)** contacted

Blank 2

- **A)** tomorrow
- **B)** the following day
- **C)** yesterday

Blank 3

- **A)** here
- **B)** there
- **C)** now

9. Your roommate Mark accidentally locked you out of the apartment and is now trying to explain himself. Select ALL the grammatically correct ways to report his original statement.

Mark's exact words: "I left the keys on the kitchen table."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Mark told me that he had left the keys on the kitchen table.
- **B)** Mark said he had left the keys on the kitchen table.
- **C)** Mark told to me that he had left the keys on the kitchen table.
- **D)** Mark said me that he had left the keys on the kitchen table.

10. Help the gossip columnist finish her scandalous article by reporting what she overheard the famous actor say.

Original quote: "I am eating a giant pizza right now!"

The actor admitted that he _____ a giant pizza _____.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** is eating
- **B)** has eaten
- **C)** was eating

Blank 2

- **A)** right now
- **B)** at that moment
- **C)** yesterday

11. You are spreading some massive office gossip, but you want your grammar to be as flawless as the news. Select the grammatically correct sentence to report what Bob said.

"I have won the lottery!" Bob said to us.

Select one.

- **A)** Bob told us that he had won the lottery.
- **B)** Bob said us that he had won the lottery.
- **C)** Bob told us that he has won the lottery.
- **D)** Bob said that he have won the lottery.

12. An alien spy is trying to blend in on Earth and needs to report their commander's transmission. Help the spy use perfect human grammar so their cover isn't blown! Choose the correct reported sentence.

The alien commander said, "I parked the spaceship behind the moon yesterday."

Select one.

- **A)** The commander said that he parked the spaceship behind the moon yesterday.
- **B)** The commander said that he had parked the spaceship behind the moon the day before.
- **C)** The commander said that he has parked the spaceship behind the moon the previous day.
- **D)** The commander told that he had parked the spaceship behind the moon yesterday.