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Sequence of Tenses in Indirect Speech

Hard | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Verb tense | Indirect speech

1. Select correct answer.

Chris said: "I was eating at a restaurant when the waiter spilled hot soup on me."

Chris said that he _____ at a restaurant when the waiter _____ hot soup on him.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) had eaten
B) was eating
C) was eaten
D) had been eating

Blank 2

A) had spilled
B) had been spilling
C) was spilled
D) spilled

2. Select correct answer.

Jake asked Anna: "Could you bring an umbrella to the football game as it might rain tomorrow?"

Jake asked Anna if she _____ bring an umbrella to the football game as it _____ rain the following day.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) would
B) could
C) should
D) can

Blank 2

A) might
B) may
C) could
D) must

3. Select correct answer.

Katy told me: "If I were Taylor Swift, I would hold a concert on the moon."

Katy told me that if she _____ Taylor Swift, she _____ a concert on the moon.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) was
B) were
C) would be
D) had been

Blank 2

A) would hold
B) would have hold
C) was hold
D) hold

4. Select correct answer.

The reporter said: "The athlete had been running for 2 hours before he passed out."

The reporter said that the athlete _____ for 2 hours before he _____ out.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** had run
- **B)** ran
- **C)** had been running
- **D)** had been run

Blank 2

- **A)** passed
- **B)** had passed
- **C)** had been passing
- **D)** passing

5. Select correct answer.

My grandfather said: "I got married in 1990 and had children in 1991."

My grandfather said that he _____ in 1990 and _____ children in 1991.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** had got married
- **B)** married
- **C)** got married
- **D)** had been getting married

Blank 2

- **A)** had
- **B)** had had
- **C)** had been having
- **D)** was having

6. The doctor told Sarah: "You must stop eating peanuts, or you will have a bad allergic reaction."

Report the doctor's warning using past forms.

The doctor told Sarah that she _____ stop eating peanuts, or she _____ have a bad allergic reaction.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** has to
- **B)** had to
- **C)** have to
- **D)** must to

Blank 2

- **A)** won't
- **B)** would
- **C)** wouldn't
- **D)** will to

7. Select correct answer.

At 9 a.m, Larry's secretary said: "I am so mad this morning! I cannot work in the company anymore!"

At 9 a.m, Larry's secretary said that she is so mad _____ morning, and she could not work in the company anymore.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

- **A)** that
- **B)** this
- **C)** the other
- **D)** the next

8. Select correct answer.

The teacher said: "New Delhi is the capital of India nowadays and Calcutta was the India's capital before 1911."

The teacher said that New Delhi _____ the capital of India nowadays and Calcutta _____ India's capital before 1911.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) was
B) is
C) had been
D) being

Blank 2

A) was
B) is
C) been
D) had been

9. Sophie said: "I always do the laundry, and my husband always waters the plants in the morning."

Report what Sophie said. Her family routine has not changed.

Sophie said that she always _____ the laundry and her husband always _____ the plants in the morning.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) do
B) does
C) doing
D) done

Blank 2

A) water
B) watering
C) waters
D) to water

10. This morning, the weatherman said: "There will be a snowstorm next week."

Report what he said. The snowstorm is still in the future.

This morning, the weatherman said that there _____ a snowstorm next week.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

A) has been
B) is being
C) will be
D) would have been

11. Select correct answer.

Bill said: "After I had finished writing my first book, I sold the rights to the publisher a year later."

Bill said that after he _____ writing his first book, he _____ the rights to the publisher a year later.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) finished
B) was finished
C) had finished
D) had been finishing

Blank 2

A) had sold
B) sold
C) had been selling
D) was sold

12. The tour guide told Sam: "You may get lost in this forest, so you should ask me before going."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The tour guide told Sam that she might get lost in that forest, so she should ask him before going.
- **B)** The tour guide told Sam that she may get lost in that forest, so she should ask him before going.
- **C)** The tour guide told Sam that she might get lost in that forest, so she ought to ask him before going.
- **D)** The tour guide told Sam that she may get lost in that forest, so she ought to ask him before going.

13. Change direct speech to reported in the following sentence.

Today, John told me: "I bought a lottery ticket yesterday and I will collect my prize tomorrow."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Today, John told me that he had bought a lottery ticket the day before and he would collect his prize the following day.
- **B)** Today John told me that he bought a lottery ticket yesterday and he would collect his prize the following day.
- **C)** Today, John told me that he had bought a lottery ticket yesterday and he would collect his prize the next day.
- **D)** Today, John told me that he bought a lottery ticket yesterday and he would collect his prize tomorrow.

14. Select correct answer.

The shopkeeper told me: "If you don't keep the receipt, I won't give you a refund."

The shopkeeper told me that if I _____ keep the receipt, he _____ give me a refund.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** don't
- **B)** wouldn't
- **C)** didn't
- **D)** won't

Blank 2

- **A)** won't
- **B)** don't
- **C)** didn't
- **D)** wouldn't

15. This morning, John told Michelle: "I like you, and our dinner is at eight tonight."

It is still the same day, and both things are still true. Report what John said.

This morning, John told Michelle that he _____ her and that their dinner _____ at eight tonight.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** like
- **B)** likes
- **C)** had liked
- **D)** liking

Blank 2

- **A)** are
- **B)** being
- **C)** is
- **D)** be

16. My mother said to me: "Plants grow in soil, so you should put the tree in the garden."

Select ALL the correct ways to report what she said.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** My mother told me that plants grow in soil, so I should put the tree in the garden.
- **B)** My mother told me that plants would grow in soil, so I should put the tree in the garden.
- **C)** My mother told me that plants grew in soil, so I should put the tree in the garden.
- **D)** My mother told me that plants grow in soil, so I should to put the tree in the garden.

17. Select the correct answers.

Piper said: "I had graduated from university a year before I decided to become a singer in 2002."

Piper said that she _____ from university a year before she _____ to become a singer in 2002.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** had been graduating
- **B)** has graduated
- **C)** had graduated
- **D)** have graduated

Blank 2

- **A)** was deciding
- **B)** has decided
- **C)** had been decided
- **D)** decided

18. Last summer, Tom said to Maria: "You can borrow my laptop while I'm in Spain, but you ought to back up your files."

Report what Tom said.

Tom told Maria that she _____ borrow his laptop while he was in Spain, but that she _____ back up her files.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** can
- **B)** could
- **C)** can to
- **D)** could have

Blank 2

- **A)** ought
- **B)** should to
- **C)** ought to
- **D)** ought to have

19. Leo said: "If I had known that the yogurt was expired, I wouldn't have eaten it."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Leo said if he had known that the yogurt was expired, he wouldn't eat it.
- **B)** Leo said if he had known that the yogurt had been expired, he wouldn't have eaten it.
- **C)** Leo said if he knew that the yogurt was expired, he wouldn't eat it.

20. John said: "I wish I were taller so the girls would like me."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** John wished he had been taller so the girls would like him.
- **B)** John wished he was taller so the girls would like him.
- **C)** John wished he had been taller so the girls will like him.
- **D)** John wished he were taller so the girls would like him.