Reported Speech

Advanced · B2 · Answers on the last page.

THE RULE

Backshift (one step back): present → past · past → past perfect · will → would · can → could · must → → had to.
"I'm tired." → She said she was tired.

Questions: statement word order, no do/did; use if / whether for yes-no.
"Where do you live?" → He asked where I lived. · "Are you ok?" → She asked if I was ok.

Commands / verbs: tell / ask sb (not) to do. offer / promise + to-inf · advise / remind / warn sb + to-inf · to-inf · suggest / admit / deny + -ing · apologise for / accuse sb of + -ing.

Time & place: now→then · tomorrow→the next day · yesterday→the day before · here→there · this→that.

1 Report these statements. Make all the necessary changes.

1 *"I am very busy today." (She said…)*

2 *"We will call you tomorrow." (They said…)*

3 *"I have finished the report." (He said…)*

4 *"I saw them yesterday." (He said…)*

5 *"You must leave now." (The teacher told us…)*

2 Report these questions.

1 *"Where do you live?" (He asked…)*

2 *"Are you coming to the party?" (She asked…)*

3 *"What time does the film start?" (They asked…)*

4 *"Have you seen my keys?" (He asked…)*

5 *"Why did you leave early?" (She asked…)*

3 Report using the verb in brackets (commands & reporting verbs).

1 *"Sit down." (tell)*

2 *"Please don't tell anyone." (ask)*

3 *"You should see a doctor." (advise)*

4 *"I'll help you with the bags." (offer)*

5 *"Let's go to the beach." (suggest)*

4 Choose the correct option.

1 She asked me (where I was / where was I) going.

2 He told (to me / me) to wait outside.

3 They suggested (to leave / leaving) early.

4 She apologised (for being / to be) late.

5 He asked (if / that) I had finished.

6 The sign warned people (not to swim / to not swim).

5 Find and correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 *He said me that he was tired.*

2 *She asked me where did I live.*

3 *They told to us to wait.*

4 *He suggested to go home.*

5 *She said she will come the next day.*

Soluciones

Answer key.

1 · Statements

1 She said (that) she was very busy that day.
2 They said they would call me the next day.
3 He said he had finished the report.
4 He said he had seen them the day before.
5 The teacher told us we had to leave then.

2 · Questions

1 He asked where I lived.
2 She asked if / whether I was coming to the party.
3 They asked what time the film started.
4 He asked if I had seen his keys.
5 She asked why I had left early.

3 · Commands & reporting verbs

1 He told me to sit down. 2 She asked me not to tell anyone. 3 He advised me to see a doctor.
4 She offered to help me with the bags. 5 He suggested going to the beach.

4 · Choose

1 where I was 2 me 3 leaving 4 for being 5 if 6 not to swim

5 · Error correction

1 He told me (that) he was tired. / He said (that) he was tired. 2 … where I lived. 3 They told us to wait.
4 He suggested going home. 5 She said she would come the next day.