



Advanced Reported Speech — B2 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. She ___ taking the file from the archive, which the security log later confirmed.
A) denied B) refused C) insisted D) warned
2. He ___ us that the building was structurally sound.
A) said B) assured C) claimed D) admitted
3. The minister ___ that the figures had been independently verified.
A) accused B) warned C) claimed D) congratulated
4. She ___ me of copying her proposal almost word for word.
A) blamed B) accused C) criticised D) warned
5. They ___ him for the delay, though the fault lay with the supplier.
A) accused B) blamed C) denied D) apologised
6. The consultant ___ postponing the launch until the second quarter.
A) advised B) told C) warned D) persuaded
7. Which sentence is INCORRECT?
A) She suggested that we postpone the meeting. B) She suggested postponing the meeting.
C) She suggested us to postpone the meeting. D) She suggested a postponement.
8. He ___ to comment on the allegations at any point during the hearing.
A) denied B) refused C) insisted D) admitted
9. She ___ me to check the small print before signing anything.
A) suggested B) recommended C) warned D) insisted
10. She said she ___ in research, and as far as I know she still does.
A) worked B) works C) had worked D) would work

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

1. She _____ me that the report had already gone to the printers.
2. He _____ that the meeting had been minuted incorrectly.
3. They accused the department _____ withholding the correspondence.

4. She apologised _____ arriving so late to her own presentation.
5. He _____ to sign anything until his solicitor had read it.
6. The surveyor _____ us to have the wiring checked before completion.
7. She _____ moving the deadline rather than cutting the scope.
8. He _____ having any involvement in the decision whatsoever.

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. He / had / invoice. / that / claimed / he / the / paid

Report an assertion without endorsing it.

2. denied / the / taking / She / archive. / from / file / the

Report a rejection of an accusation, using a gerund.

3. comment / to / refused / They / the / findings. / on

Report a flat refusal with an infinitive.

4. figures / warned / She / check / twice. / me / the / to

Report a warning aimed at a particular person.

5. document. / accused / the / He / of / her / leaking

Report a blame using the preposition of.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **A) denied** — Deny takes a gerund directly and reports a rejected accusation.
2. **B) assured** — Assure requires an object before the that clause; say cannot take one at all.
3. **C) claimed** — Claim plus a that clause reports an assertion while withholding agreement from it.
4. **B) accused** — Accuse takes an object followed by of plus a gerund.
5. **B) blamed** — Blame takes an object followed by for, unlike accuse which takes of.
6. **A) advised** — Advise can take a gerund when no particular person is being addressed.
7. **C) She suggested us to postpone the meeting.** — Suggest never takes an object plus infinitive, however natural the pattern feels.
8. **B) refused** — Refuse takes a to-infinitive; deny would need a gerund instead.
9. **C) warned** — Warn takes an object followed by a to-infinitive.
10. **B) works** — Backshift is optional when the reported fact is still true at the moment of reporting.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **told** — This verb requires a direct object before the reported clause.
2. **insisted** — This verb reports a position maintained firmly against disagreement.
3. **of** — Accuse takes this preposition before a gerund, unlike blame which takes for.
4. **for** — Apologise is followed by this preposition plus a noun or gerund.
5. **refused** — This verb takes a to-infinitive and reports a flat rejection.
6. **advised** — With a person named, this verb takes an object plus a to-infinitive.
7. **suggested** — This verb takes a gerund and can never take an object plus infinitive.
8. **denied** — This verb takes a gerund and rejects an allegation.

C. Sentence building

1. **He claimed that he had paid the invoice.**
2. **She denied taking the file from the archive.**
3. **They refused to comment on the findings.**
4. **She warned me to check the figures twice.**
5. **He accused her of leaking the document.**