Mixed Reported Speech:
Direct and Indirect Speech — All Types

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. "Close the door!" → She ___ me to close the door.
   a) said
   b) asked if
   c) told
   d) said to

2. "I have never been to Australia." → He said he ___ never been to Australia.
   a) has
   b) had
   c) was
   d) would have

3. "Where did you park the car?" → She asked me where I ___ the car.
   a) parked
   b) had parked
   c) have parked
   d) was parking

4. "Could you help me with this?" → He ___ me to help him with that.
   a) told
   b) said
   c) asked
   d) ordered

5. "I will be working late tonight." → She said she ___ be working late that night.
   a) will
   b) would
   c) was going to
   d) should

6. "Is there a bank near here?" → He asked ___ there was a bank nearby.
   a) that
   b) where
   c) if
   d) what

7. "Don't touch that!" → She told the children ___ touch that.
   a) don't
   b) to not
   c) not to
   d) didn't

8. "I was watching TV when the phone rang." → He said he ___ TV when the phone had rung.
   a) was watching
   b) watched
   c) had been watching
   d) has been watching

9. "How much does this cost?" → She asked how much that ___.
   a) costs
   b) cost
   c) had cost
   d) did cost

10. "We are going to move to Spain." → They told us they ___ going to move to Spain.
    a) are
    b) were
    c) had been
    d) would be

11. "Please sit down." → The doctor ___ me to sit down.
    a) said
    b) told that
    c) spoke
    d) asked

12. "Do you know where the library is?" → She asked me ___ I knew where the library was.
    a) where
    b) that
    c) what
    d) if

13. "I didn't break the window." → He said he ___ the window.
    a) hadn't broken
    b) didn't break
    c) hasn't broken
    d) wouldn't break

14. "Turn off your phone during the exam." → The teacher told us to turn off ___ phones during the exam.
    a) your
    b) their
    c) the
    d) our

15. "Why are you laughing?" → He asked me why I ___.
    a) am laughing
    b) laughed
    c) had laughed
    d) was laughing

16. "I'll give you a lift to the airport." → She ___ she would give me a lift to the airport.
    a) asked
    b) told to me
    c) asked if
    d) said

17. "Don't forget to bring your passport." → She ___ me not to forget to bring my passport.
    a) reminded
    b) said
    c) asked if
    d) told that

18. "The Earth revolves around the Sun." → The teacher said the Earth ___ around the Sun.
    a) revolves
    b) revolved
    c) had revolved
    d) was revolving

19. "Would you mind opening the window?" → She asked me ___ the window.
    a) to open
    b) if I open
    c) opening
    d) that I opened

20. "I had already eaten when they arrived." → She said she ___ already eaten when they arrived.
    a) had
    b) has
    c) would have
    d) was

Answers

1. c) told

2. b) had

3. b) had parked

4. c) asked

5. b) would

6. c) if

7. c) not to

8. c) had been watching

9. b) cost

10. b) were

11. d) asked

12. d) if

13. a) hadn't broken

14. d) our

15. d) was laughing

16. d) said

17. a) reminded

18. a) revolves

19. a) to open

20. a) had

Explanations

1. "told" (c)

This is a command. We use 'told + person + to-infinitive': told me to close. 'Said' cannot be used with person + to-infinitive for commands.

2. "had" (b)

This is a statement. Present perfect 'have never been' backshifts to past perfect 'had never been'.

3. "had parked" (b)

This is a wh-question. Past simple 'did you park' backshifts to past perfect 'had parked'. Statement word order: 'where I had parked'.

4. "asked" (c)

This is a polite request ('Could you...'). We use 'asked + person + to-infinitive'. 'Told' implies a command, but this is a request. 'This' changes to 'that'.

5. "would" (b)

This is a statement. 'Will' backshifts to 'would'. 'Tonight' changes to 'that night'.

6. "if" (c)

This is a yes/no question. We use 'asked + if/whether'. 'Near here' changes to 'nearby' or 'near there'.

7. "not to" (c)

This is a negative command. We use 'told + person + not to + infinitive'. The correct order is 'not to', not 'to not'.

8. "had been watching" (c)

This is a statement. Past continuous 'was watching' backshifts to past perfect continuous 'had been watching'.

9. "cost" (b)

This is a wh-question. Present simple 'does this cost' backshifts to past simple in statement word order: 'that cost'. The verb 'cost' is irregular (cost–cost–cost), so the past simple looks identical to the present. 'This' changes to 'that'.

10. "were" (b)

This is a statement. 'Are going to' backshifts to 'were going to'. 'Told us' is correct because 'tell' needs a person object.

11. "asked" (d)

This is a polite request ('Please...'). We use 'asked + person + to-infinitive'. 'Told' is also possible but implies more authority. 'Please' signals a request, so 'asked' is most natural.

12. "if" (d)

The main question is yes/no ('Do you know...?'), so we use 'if'. The embedded 'where' stays within the clause: 'if I knew where the library was'.

13. "hadn't broken" (a)

This is a negative statement. Past simple 'didn't break' backshifts to past perfect 'hadn't broken'.

14. "our" (d)

This is a command. The pronoun 'your' changes to 'our' because the teacher is speaking to us (the students reporting).

15. "was laughing" (d)

This is a wh-question. Present continuous 'are laughing' backshifts to past continuous 'was laughing'. Statement word order: 'why I was laughing'.

16. "said" (d)

This is a statement (an offer). We use 'said that...' with backshift: 'will' → 'would', 'you' → 'me'. 'Told to me' is grammatically incorrect — it should be 'told me'.

17. "reminded" (a)

This is a command with a reminder tone. 'Reminded + person + not to + infinitive' is the most natural reporting verb. 'Told' is also possible. 'Your' changes to 'my'.

18. "revolves" (a)

This is a statement, but it expresses a scientific fact. General truths do NOT need backshift — the present tense stays. Using 'revolved' could imply the Earth no longer revolves.

19. "to open" (a)

This is a polite request ('Would you mind...?'). We report it as: 'asked + person + to-infinitive'. The polite form is simplified to the core request.

20. "had" (a)

This is a statement. Past perfect 'had already eaten' does NOT backshift further — it stays as past perfect. Past perfect is the maximum backshift.