



Answers

1. c) had been waiting
2. b) left
3. d) advised
4. b) boils
5. c) ordered
6. c) whether
7. b) had lived
8. c) if
9. d) to
10. b) might
11. b) exercised
12. c) swore
13. d) had been postponed
14. d) not to park
15. a) lives
16. a) had been having
17. d) warned
18. a) would do
19. a) told
20. a) offered



Explanations

1. “had been waiting” (c)

Present perfect continuous 'have been waiting' backshifts to past perfect continuous 'had been waiting'. The reporting verb 'complained' fits the speaker's frustration.

2. “left” (b)

Wh-question with backshift. 'Does the train leave' → statement order with past simple: 'the train left'. The auxiliary 'does' disappears in reported speech.

3. “advised” (d)

'You should' gives friendly advice. 'Advise + person + to-infinitive' is the most accurate reporting verb. 'Warn' implies danger, which is too strong for an umbrella.

4. “boils” (b)

No backshift needed. This is a scientific fact — general truths keep the present tense. Using 'boiled' would wrongly imply water no longer boils at that temperature.

5. “ordered” (c)

The forceful tone ('I won't tell you again') shows this is a strong command, not a polite request. 'Order + person + to-infinitive' captures the authority.

6. “whether” (c)

The original already contains 'whether' as an embedded question word, so it stays in reported speech. 'That' is for statements, not questions.

7. “had lived” (b)

'Used to live' can be reported as 'had lived' (past perfect) to show the backshift. 'Used to live' staying unchanged is also acceptable, but 'had lived' is the standard reported form.

8. “if” (c)

This is a polite yes/no question (request). We use 'asked + if'. 'Could' stays as 'could' (already past form). 'This weekend' → 'that weekend', 'your' → 'my', 'me' → 'him'.

9. “to” (d)

'Confess to + -ing' is the correct pattern. The speaker admits guilt for something serious. The preposition 'to' here is followed by '-ing', not an infinitive.

10. “might” (b)

'Might' is already a past form and does not change further in reported speech. It stays as 'might not'.

11. “exercised” (b)

Wh-question with backshift. Present simple 'do you exercise' → past simple 'I exercised' in statement word order. The auxiliary 'do' disappears.

12. “swore” (c)

The emphatic 'never' and exclamation show a strong emotional vow. 'Swore that...' captures the intensity. 'Promise' is too calm, 'threaten' implies harm to another person.

13. “had been postponed” (d)

Present perfect passive 'has been postponed' backshifts to past perfect passive 'had been postponed'. 'Next week' → 'the following week'.

14. “not to park” (d)

'Please' signals a polite request. Negative request: 'asked + person + not to + infinitive'. The correct order is 'not to park', not 'to not park'.

15. “lives” (a)

No backshift needed for two reasons: (1) the reporting verb 'says' is present tense, and (2) the statement is still true. Present tense stays.

16. “had been having” (a)

Past continuous 'were having' backshifts to past perfect continuous 'had been having'. Past simple 'went out' → past perfect 'had gone out'.

17. “warned” (d)

'You'd better not' carries a threat of consequences. 'Warn + person + not to + infinitive' captures the serious tone. 'Remind' is too gentle.

18. “would do” (a)

'Would' is already a past modal and does not change further in reported speech. The hypothetical second conditional structure stays the same.

19. “told” (a)

This is a statement with a person object ('us'). 'Told + person + that clause' is correct. 'Said' cannot take 'us' as a direct object — it would need 'said to us'.

20. “offered” (a)

'Shall I...?' is an offer to do something for someone. 'Offer + to-infinitive' is the correct reporting verb. 'Ask' would need a different structure (asked if she should...).