



Answers

1. d) would
2. b) could
3. a) would
4. d) could
5. c) could
6. c) would ... the next day
7. b) could
8. d) had to ... that day
9. a) would
10. c) there
11. d) would
12. c) could ... that night
13. a) would ... the following week
14. b) would
15. c) asked
16. b) should
17. d) had booked ... that night
18. b) wouldn't
19. a) had done
20. a) couldn't



Explanations

1. “would” (d)

The modal 'will' backshifts to 'would' in reported speech. Also note: 'you' → 'I' and 'my' → 'her'.

2. “could” (b)

The modal 'can' backshifts to 'could'. The pronoun 'you' → 'I', 'me' → 'him', and 'this' → 'that'.

3. “would” (a)

The modal 'will' backshifts to 'would'. The subject 'they' does not change because the question was about a third party.

4. “could” (d)

The modal 'can' (expressing ability) backshifts to 'could'. Statement order is already present since 'she' is the subject.

5. “could” (c)

When 'may' expresses permission (= am I allowed to), it typically changes to 'could' in reported speech. 'I' → 'he' and 'your' → 'my'. Note: 'might' is used when 'may' expresses possibility, not permission.

6. “would ... the next day” (c)

'Will' backshifts to 'would', and 'tomorrow' changes to 'the next day'. Both the modal and the time expression must shift.

7. “could” (b)

'Can' backshifts to 'could'. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'he'. Word order: 'where can I buy' → 'where he could buy'.

8. “had to ... that day” (d)

'Must' (obligation) backshifts to 'had to'. 'Today' changes to 'that day'. 'I' changes to 'she'. Both changes are required.

9. “would” (a)

'Will' backshifts to 'would'. Word order changes: 'when will you know' → 'when I would know'. The pronoun 'you' changes to 'I'.

10. “there” (c)

'Here' changes to 'there' in reported speech because the reporter is no longer at the same location. 'Can' → 'could'.

11. “would” (d)

'Will' backshifts to 'would'. 'Tomorrow' has already been changed to 'the following day' in the stem.

12. “could ... that night” (c)

'Can' backshifts to 'could' and 'tonight' changes to 'that night'. Both the modal and the time expression must shift.

13. “would ... the following week” (a)

'Will' backshifts to 'would' and 'next week' changes to 'the following week'. Both changes are needed.

14. “would” (b)

'Will' backshifts to 'would'. Word order changes: 'how long will the repair take' → 'how long the repair would take'.

15. “asked” (c)

For reported questions, use 'asked' (not 'said' or 'told'). 'Said me' is always wrong. 'Told me' is for reported statements, not questions.

16. “should” (b)

'Should' is already a past-form modal and does not change further in reported speech. 'These' changes to 'those' and 'I' changes to 'he'.

17. “had booked ... that night” (d)

Past simple 'booked' (after removing 'did') backshifts to past perfect 'had booked'. 'Tonight' changes to 'that night'. Both tense and time must shift.

18. “wouldn't” (b)

The negative modal 'won't' (will not) backshifts to 'wouldn't' (would not). 'My' changes to 'her'.

19. “had done” (a)

Remove 'did' and backshift: 'did' (past simple of 'do') becomes 'had done' (past perfect). 'Last night' changes to 'the night before'.

20. “couldn't” (a)

The negative modal 'can't' (cannot) backshifts to 'couldn't' (could not). The question is reported with 'if' because it is a yes/no question.