



## Reported Statements: Present Tense Backshift

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- "I like pizza." → She said she \_\_\_\_ pizza.  
a) likes  
b) is liking  
c) has liked  
d) liked
- "I work in a bank." → He said he \_\_\_\_ in a bank.  
a) worked  
b) works  
c) is working  
d) has worked
- "We live in Paris." → They said they \_\_\_\_ in Paris.  
a) live  
b) lived  
c) are living  
d) have lived
- "I play tennis every weekend." → She said she \_\_\_\_ tennis every weekend.  
a) plays  
b) is playing  
c) played  
d) has played
- "I know the answer." → He said he \_\_\_\_ the answer.  
a) knows  
b) is knowing  
c) has known  
d) knew
- "We want a new car." → They said they \_\_\_\_ a new car.  
a) wanted  
b) want  
c) are wanting  
d) had wanted
- "I have two brothers." → She said she \_\_\_\_ two brothers.  
a) has  
b) had  
c) is having  
d) have
- "My sister teaches English." → He said his sister \_\_\_\_ English.  
a) teaches  
b) is teaching  
c) taught  
d) has taught
- "I need some help." → She said she \_\_\_\_ some help.  
a) needs  
b) is needing  
c) has needed  
d) needed
- "We enjoy cooking." → They said they \_\_\_\_ cooking.  
a) enjoyed  
b) enjoy  
c) are enjoying  
d) had enjoyed
- "I understand the problem." → He said he \_\_\_\_ the problem.  
a) understands  
b) understood  
c) is understanding  
d) has understood





## Answers

1. d) liked
2. a) worked
3. b) lived
4. c) played
5. d) knew
6. a) wanted
7. b) had
8. c) taught
9. d) needed
10. a) enjoyed
11. b) understood
12. c) went
13. d) was studying
14. a) were waiting
15. b) was reading
16. c) were planning
17. d) was learning
18. a) were having
19. b) was looking
20. c) were playing



# Explanations

## 1. “liked” (d)

In reported speech, present simple 'like' shifts back to past simple 'liked'. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'she' because we are reporting what she said.

## 2. “worked” (a)

Present simple 'work' becomes past simple 'worked' in reported speech. 'I' changes to 'he' because we are reporting his words.

## 3. “lived” (b)

Present simple 'live' shifts to past simple 'lived'. The pronoun 'we' changes to 'they' when reporting someone else's words.

## 4. “played” (c)

Present simple 'play' becomes past simple 'played' in reported speech. Even though tennis is a regular habit, we still backshift the tense.

## 5. “knew” (d)

Present simple 'know' becomes past simple 'knew' in reported speech. Note the irregular form: know → knew.

## 6. “wanted” (a)

Present simple 'want' shifts to past simple 'wanted'. 'We' changes to 'they' when we report what a group of people said.

## 7. “had” (b)

Present simple 'have' becomes past simple 'had' in reported speech. 'I' changes to 'she'. Note: 'have' here means possession, not the auxiliary verb.

## 8. “taught” (c)

Present simple 'teaches' becomes past simple 'taught' (irregular verb: teach → taught). Also, 'my' changes to 'his' because we report from his perspective.

## 9. “needed” (d)

Present simple 'need' shifts to past simple 'needed' in reported speech. 'I' changes to 'she' when we report her words.

## 10. “enjoyed” (a)

Present simple 'enjoy' becomes past simple 'enjoyed'. 'We' changes to 'they' in reported speech.

## 11. “understood” (b)

Present simple 'understand' becomes past simple 'understood' (irregular verb). 'I' changes to 'he' in reported speech.

## 12. “went” (c)

Present simple 'go' becomes past simple 'went' (irregular verb: go → went). Even with the time expression 'every day', we still backshift the tense.

## 13. “was studying” (d)

Present continuous 'am studying' becomes past continuous 'was studying'. 'I' changes to 'he' and 'my' changes to 'his'.

**14. “were waiting” (a)**

Present continuous 'are waiting' becomes past continuous 'were waiting'. 'We' changes to 'they' in reported speech.

**15. “was reading” (b)**

Present continuous 'am reading' shifts to past continuous 'was reading'. 'I' changes to 'she' when reporting her words.

**16. “were planning” (c)**

Present continuous 'are planning' becomes past continuous 'were planning'. 'My' changes to 'his' because we report from his perspective.

**17. “was learning” (d)**

Present continuous 'am learning' shifts to past continuous 'was learning'. 'I' changes to 'she' in reported speech.

**18. “were having” (a)**

Present continuous 'are having' becomes past continuous 'were having'. 'We' changes to 'they' when reporting what a group said.

**19. “was looking” (b)**

Present continuous 'am looking' shifts to past continuous 'was looking'. 'I' changes to 'he' in reported speech.

**20. “were playing” (c)**

Present continuous 'are playing' becomes past continuous 'were playing'. 'The children' stays the same because it is not a pronoun that needs changing.