

12. "I can't find my keys anywhere." She said she ____ find her keys anywhere.
a) can't
b) won't
c) wasn't able
d) couldn't
13. "The meeting may not happen this afternoon." The secretary said the meeting ____ not happen that afternoon.
a) may
b) might
c) could
d) would
14. "I must return these library books today." She said she ____ return those library books that day.
a) had to
b) must
c) has to
d) would
15. "He is going to cook dinner for us tonight." She said he ____ cook dinner for them that night.
a) is going to
b) would
c) was going to
d) has been going to
16. "I will send you the report by Friday." My colleague said he ____ send me the report by Friday.
a) will
b) could
c) should
d) would
17. "You can use my laptop while I'm away." She told me I ____ use her laptop while she was away.
a) can
b) could
c) might
d) would
18. "I shall never forget this day." He said he ____ never forget that day.
a) shall
b) will
c) would
d) should
19. "We shall inform you of the decision soon." They said they ____ inform me of the decision soon.
a) should
b) shall
c) would
d) could
20. "I will not accept any more excuses." The teacher warned that she ____ not accept any more excuses.
a) will
b) did
c) would
d) could



Answers

1. b) would call
2. a) could
3. c) might
4. d) had to
5. b) was going to
6. a) would
7. c) could
8. d) might
9. b) had to
10. a) were going to
11. c) wouldn't
12. d) couldn't
13. b) might
14. a) had to
15. c) was going to
16. d) would
17. b) could
18. c) would
19. c) would
20. c) would



Explanations

1. “would call” (b)

In reported speech, 'will' shifts back to 'would'. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'she' and 'you' to 'me'. 'Tomorrow' also changes to 'the next day'.

2. “could” (a)

In reported speech, 'can' shifts back to 'could'. The meaning of ability is preserved, but the modal changes to its past form.

3. “might” (c)

In reported speech, 'may' (possibility) shifts back to 'might'. The pronoun 'you' changes to 'me' and 'this weekend' becomes 'that weekend'.

4. “had to” (d)

In reported speech, 'must' (obligation) shifts back to 'had to'. 'This essay' becomes 'that essay' and 'tonight' becomes 'that night'.

5. “was going to” (b)

In reported speech, 'am going to' shifts back to 'was going to'. The full structure changes: 'am/is/are going to' becomes 'was/were going to'. 'Next month' becomes 'the following month'.

6. “would” (a)

In reported speech, 'will' shifts back to 'would'. Tom's promise to help is reported using 'would' to show the backshift from future to conditional.

7. “could” (c)

In reported speech, 'can' shifts back to 'could'. The pronoun 'you' changes to 'I' and 'my' changes to 'her' because the speaker is female.

8. “might” (d)

In reported speech, 'may' (possibility) shifts back to 'might'. 'Today' also changes to 'that day' to reflect the time shift.

9. “had to” (b)

In reported speech, 'must' (obligation/rule) shifts back to 'had to'. The pronoun 'you' changes to 'we' because the manager was addressing a group.

10. “were going to” (a)

In reported speech, 'are going to' shifts back to 'were going to'. Since the subject 'we' becomes 'they', the auxiliary changes from 'are' to 'were'.

11. “wouldn't” (c)

In reported speech, 'won't' (will not) shifts back to 'wouldn't' (would not). The negative form follows the same backshift rule: will → would.

12. “couldn't” (d)

In reported speech, 'can't' (cannot) shifts back to 'couldn't' (could not). The negative modal follows the same rule: can → could. 'My' changes to 'her'.

13. “might” (b)

In reported speech, 'may not' shifts back to 'might not'. The negative form keeps the same pattern. 'This afternoon' becomes 'that afternoon'.

14. “had to” (a)

In reported speech, 'must' shifts back to 'had to'. 'These' changes to 'those' and 'today' changes to 'that day' to reflect the shift in time and place.

15. “was going to” (c)

In reported speech, 'is going to' shifts back to 'was going to'. 'Us' changes to 'them' and 'tonight' becomes 'that night'. The full 'be going to' structure must change.

16. “would” (d)

In reported speech, 'will' shifts back to 'would'. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'he' and 'you' changes to 'me'. The promise is reported with 'would'.

17. “could” (b)

In reported speech, 'can' (permission) shifts back to 'could'. 'My' changes to 'her' and 'I'm' changes to 'she was' following standard backshift rules.

18. “would” (c)

Here 'shall' expresses future meaning and determination (= will), not obligation or suggestion. When 'shall' means 'will', it shifts back to 'would' in reported speech. 'This day' also changes to 'that day'. Note: 'shall' → 'should' applies only when 'shall' expresses obligation or suggestion.

19. “would” (c)

Here 'shall' is used in a formal announcement meaning 'will' (future promise), not obligation or suggestion. When 'shall' expresses future meaning, it shifts back to 'would' in reported speech. 'We' changes to 'they' and 'you' changes to 'me'. Note: 'shall' → 'should' applies only when 'shall' carries the sense of advice or obligation.

20. “would” (c)

In reported speech, 'will not' shifts back to 'would not'. The reporting verb 'warned' signals a strong statement, and the modal still follows the standard backshift rule: will → would.