



## Reported Statements: Comprehensive Mixed Practice

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- "I enjoy working from home today." → She said she \_\_\_ working from home \_\_\_\_.  
a) enjoys ... today  
b) enjoyed ... today  
c) enjoyed ... that day  
d) had enjoyed ... that day
- "I will submit the report tomorrow." → He said he \_\_\_ submit the report \_\_\_\_.  
a) would ... the next day  
b) will ... tomorrow  
c) would ... tomorrow  
d) will ... the next day
- "We are renovating our kitchen here in this apartment." → They said they \_\_\_ their kitchen \_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_ apartment.  
a) are renovating ... here ... this  
b) were renovating ... there ... that  
c) were renovating ... here ... this  
d) had been renovating ... there ... that
- "I saw your manager at the conference yesterday." → She said she \_\_\_ my manager at the conference \_\_\_\_.  
a) saw ... yesterday  
b) had seen ... yesterday  
c) saw ... the day before  
d) had seen ... the day before
- "Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius." → The teacher said that water \_\_\_ at 100 degrees Celsius.  
a) had boiled  
b) was boiling  
c) boils  
d) boiled
- "You can borrow my laptop tomorrow." → He told me I \_\_\_ borrow his laptop \_\_\_\_.  
a) could ... the following day  
b) can ... tomorrow  
c) could ... tomorrow  
d) can ... the following day
- "I have already finished my assignment." → She said she \_\_\_ already \_\_\_ her assignment.  
a) has ... finished  
b) had ... finished  
c) have ... finished  
d) was ... finishing
- "You must complete this form before the deadline." → The officer said I \_\_\_ complete \_\_\_ form before the deadline.  
a) must ... this  
b) had to ... this  
c) must ... that  
d) had to ... that
- "The Earth revolves around the Sun." → The professor told us that the Earth \_\_\_ around the Sun.  
a) had revolved  
b) was revolving  
c) revolves  
d) revolved
- "I work at the hospital and I will transfer to the new branch next month." → He said he \_\_\_ at the hospital and he \_\_\_ transfer to the new branch \_\_\_\_.  
a) worked ... would ... the following month  
b) works ... will ... next month  
c) worked ... would ... next month  
d) works ... would ... the following month





## Answers

1. c) enjoyed ... that day
2. a) would ... the next day
3. b) were renovating ... there ... that
4. d) had seen ... the day before
5. c) boils
6. a) could ... the following day
7. b) had ... finished
8. d) had to ... that
9. c) revolves
10. a) worked ... would ... the following month
11. b) had been preparing ... had gone out
12. d) might ... his
13. c) said
14. a) took ... would ... that day
15. b) had ... left ... rang
16. d) could ... would ... the following year
17. c) is
18. a) had bought ... there ... the week before
19. b) told ... had ... that
20. d) He said he couldn't attend the meeting the next day because he would be visiting their clients in Shanghai.



# Explanations

## 1. “enjoyed ... that day” (c)

Present simple 'enjoy' backshifts to past simple 'enjoyed'. The time expression 'today' changes to 'that day' in reported speech. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'she'. Both the tense and the time expression must shift.

## 2. “would ... the next day” (a)

The modal 'will' changes to 'would' in reported speech. The time expression 'tomorrow' shifts to 'the next day' (or 'the following day'). The pronoun 'I' changes to 'he'. Both the modal and the time expression must be adjusted.

## 3. “were renovating ... there ... that” (b)

Present continuous 'are renovating' backshifts to past continuous 'were renovating'. The place word 'here' changes to 'there', and the demonstrative 'this' changes to 'that'. The possessive 'our' changes to 'their'. Multiple place-related shifts are required.

## 4. “had seen ... the day before” (d)

Past simple 'saw' backshifts to past perfect 'had seen'. The time expression 'yesterday' changes to 'the day before' (or 'the previous day'). The pronoun 'your' changes to 'my' because the listener is now the reporter. All three changes are needed.

## 5. “boils” (c)

When the original statement expresses a general truth or scientific fact, we do not need to backshift the tense. 'Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius' is always true, so the present simple 'boils' remains unchanged in reported speech.

## 6. “could ... the following day” (a)

The reporting verb 'told' is used correctly here with a personal object ('me'). The modal 'can' changes to 'could', and 'tomorrow' shifts to 'the following day'. The possessive 'my' changes to 'his'. Note: we use 'told me' (not 'said me') because 'tell' requires a personal object.

## 7. “had ... finished” (b)

Present perfect 'have finished' backshifts to past perfect 'had finished'. The pronoun 'I' becomes 'she', and the possessive 'my' becomes 'her'. The adverb 'already' stays in the same position between the auxiliary and the main verb.

## 8. “had to ... that” (d)

The modal 'must' (expressing obligation) changes to 'had to' in reported speech. The demonstrative 'this' shifts to 'that' because we are no longer in the same place as the original speaker. The pronoun 'you' changes to 'I' since the listener is now the reporter.

## 9. “revolves” (c)

This is a general scientific truth, so no backshift is needed. The present simple 'revolves' stays as 'revolves'. Note the correct use of 'told us' (with a personal object) rather than 'said us'. Even though 'told' is used, backshift is still optional for permanent facts.

## 10. “worked ... would ... the following month” (a)

This sentence requires three simultaneous changes. Present simple 'work' backshifts to past simple 'worked'. The modal 'will' changes to 'would'. The time expression 'next month' shifts to 'the following month'. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'he' throughout.

**11. “had been preparing ... had gone out” (b)**

Past continuous 'was preparing' backshifts to past perfect continuous 'had been preparing'. Past simple 'went out' backshifts to past perfect 'had gone out'. Both clauses must be shifted consistently. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'she'.

**12. “might ... his” (d)**

The modal 'may' (expressing possibility) changes to 'might' in reported speech. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'he', and the possessive 'my' changes to 'his'. Both the modal and the possessive must shift.

**13. “said” (c)**

This question tests the difference between 'said' and 'told'. 'Said' is used without a personal object: 'She said (that)...'. 'Told' requires a personal object: 'She told me (that)...'. Options B and D are grammatically incorrect because 'told to me' and 'said me' are wrong patterns.

**14. “took ... would ... that day” (a)**

Three changes are needed. Present simple 'take' backshifts to past simple 'took'. The modal 'will' changes to 'would'. The time expression 'today' changes to 'that day'. This complex sentence requires all changes to be applied consistently across both clauses.

**15. “had ... left ... rang” (b)**

Past perfect 'had left' cannot backshift any further, so it stays as 'had left'. The past simple 'rang' can technically backshift to 'had rung', but when the past perfect is already used in the main clause, keeping 'rang' in past simple is acceptable and avoids confusion. Both options A and B could be considered correct, but B is the most natural choice.

**16. “could ... would ... the following year” (d)**

This requires three modal and time changes. The modal 'can' shifts to 'could', and 'will' shifts to 'would'. The time expression 'next year' changes to 'the following year'. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'she'. All changes must be applied together.

**17. “is” (c)**

This statement expresses a permanent geographical fact that is still true, so backshift is not required. 'Tokyo is the capital of Japan' remains true, so the present simple 'is' can stay unchanged. While 'was' (option D) is also technically acceptable, keeping the present tense is preferred for facts that are still true.

**18. “had bought ... there ... the week before” (a)**

Past simple 'bought' backshifts to past perfect 'had bought'. The place word 'here' changes to 'there'. The time expression 'last week' shifts to 'the week before' (or 'the previous week'). The pronoun 'I' changes to 'she'. Three different types of changes are all required.

**19. “told ... had ... that” (b)**

This tests multiple skills at once. 'Told' is correct because it is followed by a personal object ('me'). Present perfect continuous 'have been working' backshifts to past perfect continuous 'had been working'. The demonstrative 'this' changes to 'that'. The pronoun 'I' changes to 'he'.

**20. “He said he couldn't attend the meeting the next day because he would be visiting their clients in Shanghai.” (d)**

This complex sentence requires multiple simultaneous changes. 'Can't' becomes 'couldn't'. 'Tomorrow' shifts to 'the next day'. 'Will be visiting' changes to 'would be visiting' (future continuous backshifts to conditional continuous). 'Our' changes to 'their' (since the reporter is outside the original speaker's group). 'I' changes to 'he'. Only option D applies all changes correctly.