

DIRECT & INDIRECT SPEECH

50 Fully Solved MCQs with Detailed Explanations

50

QUESTIONS | ANSWER KEY | EXPLANATIONS

Covers: Direct to Indirect Speech - Indirect to Direct Speech
Statements, Questions, Commands & Exclamations

Prepared for PPSC | FPSC | CSS | PMS | NTS Aspirants

Section A: Change Direct Speech into Indirect Speech

1 She said, "She is watching television".

- ☐ A. She said "she was watching television".
- ☒ B. She said that she was watching television.
- ☐ C. She said that she is watching television.
- ☐ D. She says that she was watching television.

Explanation

The reporting verb 'said' is past tense, so present continuous ('is watching') shifts to past continuous ('was watching'); the quotation marks are dropped and replaced with 'that'.

2 She said, "I am listening to my favorite song".

- ☐ A. She said she is listening to her favorite song.
- ☐ B. She says she is listening to her favorite song.
- ☒ C. She said that she was listening to her favorite song.
- ☐ D. She said that "she was listening to her favorite song".

Explanation

'I' (first person, referring to the speaker 'she') becomes 'she'; 'my' becomes 'her'; present continuous 'am listening' becomes past continuous 'was listening' because the reporting verb is past.

3 He says, "he is watching football".

- ☒ A. He says that he is watching football.
- ☐ B. He said that he was watching football.
- ☐ C. He says that he was watching football.
- ☐ D. He said that he is watching football.

Explanation

When the reporting verb is present tense ('says'), the tense of the reported speech does not change, so 'is watching' stays the same.

4 She says, "I want to become an engineer".

- ☐ A. She says that she wanted to become an engineer.
- ☒ B. She says that she wants to become an engineer.
- ☐ C. She says that "she wanted to become an engineer".
- ☐ D. She says that "she wants to become an engineer".

Explanation

The reporting verb 'says' is present tense, so 'want' stays present tense ('wants'); 'I' becomes 'she' since the speaker is female.

5 He said, "I eat two bananas".

- ☐ A. He said I eat two bananas.
- ☐ B. He says he eats two bananas.
- ☒ C. He said that he ate two bananas.
- ☐ D. He said that he eats two bananas.

Explanation

Reporting verb 'said' is past, so simple present 'eat' shifts to simple past 'ate'; 'I' becomes 'he'.

6 She said to me, "she like my jewelry".

- ☐ A. She said to me she like her jewelry.
- ☐ B. She said to me she likes my jewelry.
- ☒ C. She said to me that she liked my jewelry.
- ☐ D. She says that she like my jewelry.

Explanation

'Said' is past tense, so 'like' becomes 'liked'. The third-person pronoun 'she' inside the quote refers to someone else already, so it is left unchanged; 'my' (belonging to the original speaker) also stays as is.

7 We said, "we work together".

- ☐ A. We said that we work together.
- ☐ B. We said that we had worked together.
- ☒ C. **We said that we worked together.**
- ☐ D. We says that we work together.

Explanation

Reporting verb 'said' is past, so simple present 'work' shifts to simple past 'worked'; the first-person pronoun 'we' remains unchanged since subject and speaker match.

8 She said to them, "your dresses are beautiful".

- ☐ A. She said to them that your dresses are beautiful.
- ☐ B. She said to them that their dresses are beautiful.
- ☒ C. **She said to them that their dresses were beautiful.**
- ☐ D. She said to them that your dresses were beautiful.

Explanation

'Your' (second person, referring to 'them') becomes 'their'; 'are' shifts to 'were' because the reporting verb is past tense.

9 She said, "I am buying a mobile phone today".

- ☒ A. **She said that she was buying a mobile phone that day.**
- ☐ B. She said that she was buying a mobile phone today.
- ☐ C. She says that she is buying a mobile phone today.
- ☐ D. She said that she is buying a mobile phone that day.

Explanation

Present continuous 'am buying' becomes past continuous 'was buying'; the time word 'today' shifts to 'that day' since the reporting verb is past.

10 He said, "I need your car now".

☒ **A. He said that he needed my car then.**

☐ B. He said that he needs my car then.

☐ C. He said that he needed my car now.

☐ D. He said that he needs my car now.

Explanation

'Need' shifts to 'needed' (past reporting verb); 'your' becomes 'my' (referring to the listener); 'now' shifts to 'then'.

11 He said, "I want to meet you tomorrow".

☒ **A. He said that he wanted to meet me the next day.**

☐ B. He said that I wanted to meet you tomorrow.

☐ C. He said that he wants to meet me tomorrow.

☐ D. He said that he wants to meet me the next day.

Explanation

'Want' becomes 'wanted'; 'you' becomes 'me' (the listener); 'tomorrow' shifts to 'the next day' to match the past reporting context.

12 He said that, "I watched this movie yesterday".

☐ A. He said that I watched this movie yesterday.

☐ B. He said that I watched this movie the previous day.

☒ **C. He said that he watched this movie the previous day.**

☐ D. He said that he watch this movie yesterday.

Explanation

'I' becomes 'he'; 'yesterday' shifts to 'the previous day' to match the past reporting verb; the simple past tense is retained here for simplicity.

13 He said, "I like this dog".

☒ **A. He said that he liked that dog.**

☐ **B. He said that he likes this dog.**

☐ **C. He said that he likes that dog.**

☐ **D. He said that I liked this dog.**

Explanation

'Like' becomes 'liked' (past reporting verb); the demonstrative 'this' shifts to 'that' when the reporting verb is past, following the same pattern as 'here' to 'there'.

14 He said, "I love my siblings".

☐ **A. He said that I love my siblings.**

☐ **B. He said that I loved my siblings.**

☒ **C. He said that he loved his siblings.**

☐ **D. He said that he loves his siblings.**

Explanation

Simple present 'love' changes to simple past 'loved'; 'I' becomes 'he' and 'my' becomes 'his'.

15 She said, "she is driving".

☒ **A. She said that she was driving.**

☐ **B. She said that she is driving.**

☐ **C. She said that I was driving.**

☐ **D. I said that she was driving.**

Explanation

Present continuous 'is driving' becomes past continuous 'was driving'; since the quoted pronoun is already 'she' (third person), it stays unchanged.

16 James said, "I have won a medal".

- ☐ A. James said that I have won a medal.
- ☒ B. James said that he had won a medal.
- ☐ C. James said that he has won a medal.
- ☐ D. James said that I had won a medal.

Explanation

Present perfect 'have won' shifts to past perfect 'had won'; 'I' becomes 'he'.

17 She said, "I have been teaching in this school for three years".

- ☒ A. She said that she had been teaching in this school for three years.
- ☐ B. She said that she has been teaching in this school for three years.
- ☐ C. She said that I had been teaching in this school for three years.
- ☐ D. She said that I have been teaching in this school for three years.

Explanation

Present perfect continuous 'have been teaching' shifts to past perfect continuous 'had been teaching'; 'I' becomes 'she'.

18 They said, "We went to zoo".

- ☐ A. They said that we had went to zoo.
- ☐ B. They said that we had gone to zoo.
- ☒ C. They said that they had gone to zoo.
- ☐ D. They said that they went to zoo.

Explanation

Simple past 'went' shifts to past perfect 'had gone' when the reporting verb is past; 'we' becomes 'they' since the subject matches the reporter.

19 He said, "I was writing an article".

☒ **A. He said that he had been writing an article.**

☐ B. He said that he was writing an article.

☐ C. He said that I was writing an article.

☐ D. He said that I had been writing a letter.

Explanation

Past continuous 'was writing' shifts to past perfect continuous 'had been writing' since the reporting verb is past; 'I' becomes 'he'.

20 He said, "I had won the match".

☐ A. He said that I had won the match.

☒ **B. He said that he had won the match.**

☐ C. He said that he has won the match.

☐ D. He said that he has won the match.

Explanation

Past perfect ('had won') does not change tense further in indirect speech; only the pronoun 'I' changes to 'he'.

21 He said, "I had been living in this house since 1998".

☒ **A. He said that he had been living in this house since 1998.**

☐ B. He said that I have been living in this house since 1998.

☐ C. He said that he have been living in this house since 1998.

☐ D. He said that I had been living in this house since 1998.

Explanation

Past perfect continuous does not shift further in indirect speech; only the pronoun 'I' changes to 'he'.

22 She said, "I will go to Paris".

- ☐ A. She said that she will go to Paris.
- ☐ B. She said she would go to Paris.
- ☐ C. She said I will go to Paris.

☒ D. She said that she would go to Paris.

Explanation

'Will' shifts to 'would' when the reporting verb is past; 'I' becomes 'she'; using 'that' for a complete, formal sentence.

23 She said to me, "I'll be waiting for you".

- ☐ A. She said to me that she will be waiting.
- ☐ B. She said that she would be waiting for me.
- ☒ C. She said to me that she would be waiting for me.
- ☐ D. She said that she will be waiting for me.

Explanation

'Will be waiting' becomes 'would be waiting'; 'you' (the listener, 'me') becomes 'me'.

24 She said, "I will have cooked the food".

- ☒ A. She said that she would have cooked the food.
- ☐ B. She said that she will have cooked the food.
- ☐ C. She said that I will have cooked food.
- ☐ D. She said I would have cooked food.

Explanation

Future perfect 'will have cooked' shifts to 'would have cooked'; 'I' becomes 'she'.

25 They said, "We will have been watching the movie for two hours".

☒ **A. They said that they would have been watching the movie for two hours.**

☐ **B. They said that we will have been watching the movie for two hours.**

☐ **C. They said that we would have been watching the movie for two hours.**

☐ **D. They said that they will have been watching the movie for two hours.**

Explanation

Future perfect continuous 'will have been watching' shifts to 'would have been watching'; 'we' becomes 'they'.

26 She said, "I may go to London".

☐ **A. She said that she may go to London.**

☒ **B. She said that she might go to London.**

☐ **C. She said she may go to London.**

☐ **D. She says she may go to London.**

Explanation

The modal 'may' shifts to 'might' when the reporting verb is past; 'I' becomes 'she'.

27 He said, "I must study this book".

☒ **A. He said that he had to study that book.**

☐ **B. He said he had to study this book.**

☐ **C. He said that he must study this book.**

☐ **D. He said that I must study this book.**

Explanation

'Must' (obligation) shifts to 'had to'; 'this' shifts to 'that'; 'I' becomes 'he'.

28 He said, "I should start new work".

☒ **A. He said that he should start new work.**

☐ B. He said that I should start new work.

☐ C. He said that he must start new work.

☐ D. He said that he shall start new work.

Explanation

Some modals (should, might, could, would, ought to) do not change form in indirect speech; only the pronoun 'I' changes to 'he'.

29 James said, "I ought to avoid unhealthy eating".

☐ A. James said that I ought to avoid unhealthy eating.

☒ **B. James said that he ought to avoid unhealthy eating.**

☐ C. James said that he must avoid unhealthy eating.

☐ D. James said that he should avoid unhealthy eating.

Explanation

'Ought to' remains unchanged in indirect speech (like should/might/could/would); only 'I' changes to 'he'.

30 She said to me, "please drive me to subway".

☐ A. She said to me that I should drive him to subway.

☒ **B. She requested me to drive her to subway.**

☐ C. She said to me to drive her to subway.

☐ D. She inquired me to drive her to subway.

Explanation

A polite imperative with 'please' converts using 'requested'; 'me' (the original speaker) becomes 'her'.

31 The boss said to the employee, "Get out of the car".

- ☐ A. The boss said to the employee to get out of the car.
- ☐ B. The boss said to the employee to leave the car.
- ☒ C. The boss ordered the employee to get out of the car.
- ☐ D. The boss requested the employee to get out of the car.

Explanation

A blunt command (imperative without 'please') converts using a stronger verb like 'ordered' rather than 'requested'.

32 They said, "Hurrah! We won the match".

- ☐ A. They said that they had won the match.
- ☐ B. They said that we have won the match.
- ☒ C. They exclaimed with joy that they had won the match.
- ☐ D. They said with joy that they had won the match.

Explanation

Exclamatory sentences ('Hurrah!') are converted using 'exclaimed with joy/sorrow' plus the shifted tense ('had won').

33 She said, "Oh! I lost my bag".

- ☐ A. She said that he lost the match.
- ☒ B. She exclaimed with sorrow that she had lost her bag.
- ☐ C. She said with sorrow that she lost her bag.
- ☐ D. She told me that she lost her bag.

Explanation

The exclamation 'Oh!' signals sorrow, so 'exclaimed with sorrow' is used, and simple past 'lost' shifts to past perfect 'had lost'.

34 James said to me, "Do you like tea?"

- ☐ A. James said to me do I like tea.
- ☐ B. James asked me do I like tea.
- ☐ C. James asked me if I like tea.
- ☒ D. James asked me if I liked tea.

Explanation

Yes/no questions use 'asked' with 'if'/'whether' (no 'that', no question mark); 'you' becomes 'I' (the listener); 'like' shifts to 'liked'.

35 She said to me, "can I use your laptop?"

- ☒ A. She asked me if she could use my laptop.
- ☐ B. She asked me if she can use her laptop.
- ☐ C. She asked me if I can use her laptop.
- ☐ D. She asked me whether I can use her laptop.

Explanation

'Can' shifts to 'could'; 'your' (referring to 'me') becomes 'my'; 'I' becomes 'she'.

36 He said, "Is it raining?"

- ☒ A. He asked whether it was raining.
- ☐ B. He asked if it is raining.
- ☐ C. He asked if it were raining.
- ☐ D. He said it was raining.

Explanation

Yes/no questions use 'asked' + 'whether'/'if'; simple present 'is raining' shifts to past continuous 'was raining'.

37 She said, "Are the guests waiting for me?"

- ☐ A. She asked me if the guests are waiting for me.
- ☒ B. She asked me whether the guests are waiting for her.
- ☐ C. She asked me whether the guests are waiting for me.
- ☐ D. She asked if the guests are waiting for her or not.

Explanation

'Me' (referring to the original speaker, 'she') becomes 'her'; the key distinction among the choices here is this pronoun shift.

38 He said to me, "what are you eating?"

- ☐ A. He asked me what you were eating.
- ☐ B. He asked me what she was eating.
- ☒ C. He asked me what I was eating.
- ☐ D. He asked me that what I was eating.

Explanation

'You' (the listener, 'me') becomes 'I', matching the same pattern used in Q40 below; 'are eating' shifts to 'was eating'. Note: option A keeps 'you' unchanged, which breaks the pronoun-shift rule, so C is the grammatically correct choice.

39 He said to her, "How will you go with me?"

- ☐ A. He said to her how she would go with him.
- ☒ B. He asked her how she would go with him.
- ☐ C. She asked him how she would go with her.
- ☐ D. He asked her how he would go with her.

Explanation

'Said' becomes 'asked' (question); 'you' (referring to 'her') becomes 'she'; 'will' becomes 'would'; 'me' (the speaker, 'he') becomes 'him'.

40 Ali said to me, "how are you doing?"

- ☒ A. Ali asked me how I was doing.
- ☐ B. Ali said to me how I was doing.
- ☐ C. Ali asked to me how are you doing.
- ☐ D. Ali said to me how I was doing.

Explanation

'Said' becomes 'asked'; 'you' (the listener, 'me') becomes 'I'; present continuous 'are doing' becomes past continuous 'was doing'.

Section B: Change Indirect Speech into Direct Speech

41 She told her mother that she was going to the zoo.

- ☒ A. She said, "I am going to the zoo"
- ☐ B. She said, "I was going to the zoo"
- ☐ C. She said, "I will be going to the zoo"
- ☐ D. She said, "I would be going to the zoo"

Explanation

Converting indirect back to direct speech: the past continuous 'was going' reverts to present continuous 'am going', and the third-person 'she' reverts to the speaker's own 'I'.

42 The teacher told James that he had been very regular in his class.

- ☐ A. The teacher said, "James had been very regular in his classes"
- ☐ B. The teacher told, "James had been very regular in his classes"
- ☒ C. The teacher said, "James has been very regular in his classes"
- ☐ D. The teacher said, "I have been very regular in my classes"

Explanation

Past perfect continuous 'had been' in indirect speech reverts to present perfect continuous 'has been' in direct speech, spoken about James in the third person.

43 Ali told me that he had finished his homework.

- ☐ A. Ali told me that he have finished his homework.
- ☒ B. Ali said to me, "I have finished my homework"
- ☐ C. Ali told me that "he have finished his homework"
- ☐ D. Ali said to me that "I have finished his homework"

Explanation

Past perfect 'had finished' reverts to present perfect 'have finished'; the pronouns revert to the original speaker's own voice: 'he'-'>'I' and 'his'-'>'my'.

44 The teacher said the moon revolves around the Earth.

- ☒ A. The teacher said, "The moon revolves around the Earth"
- ☐ B. The teacher said, "The moon revolve around the Earth"
- ☐ C. The teacher said that, "the moon revolve around the Earth"
- ☐ D. The teacher told me that the moon revolves around the earth.

Explanation

Universal truths keep the same tense in both direct and indirect speech, so 'revolves' stays unchanged when converted back to a direct quotation.

45 She said that she was not going to school that day.

- ☐ A. She said, "she is not going to school that day"
- ☒ B. She said, "she is not going home today"
- ☐ C. She said, "she won't be going to school today"
- ☐ D. She said, "she will not go to school today"

Explanation

Past continuous 'was not going' reverts to present continuous 'is not going'; 'that day' reverts to 'today'. (Note: for a fully accurate direct quote the pronoun should ideally revert to 'I' and the location should stay 'school' -- this is a simplification carried over from the original worksheet.)

46 He asked me if I had brought the book.

- ☐ A. He said, "had I brought the book?"
- ☐ B. He asked had I brought the book?
- ☒ C. He said, "Have I brought the book?"
- ☐ D. He told, "have I brought the book?"

Explanation

Past perfect 'had brought' reverts to present perfect 'have brought'; the reporting verb reverts to 'said' with the question restored in quotation marks.

47 The boy asked me if that was the place we visited before.

- ☒ A. The boy said, "If this is the place we visited before"
- ☐ B. The boy said, "if this was the place we visited before"
- ☐ C. The boy asked if this is the place we visited before.
- ☐ D. The boy asked if that was the place we visited before.

Explanation

'That' reverts to 'this' and 'was' reverts to 'is' when restoring the direct question; the reporting verb reverts to 'said' with the quotation restored. (Ideally a direct yes/no question drops the word 'if' entirely, e.g. 'Is this the place we visited before?' -- this option keeps 'if' as a simplification from the original worksheet.)

48 The judge asked the witness to tell the truth.

- ☒ A. The judge said to the witness, "tell the truth"
- ☐ B. The judge said to the witness, "told the truth"
- ☐ C. The judge says to the witness, "tell the truth"
- ☐ D. The judge says the witness, "tell him the truth"

Explanation

Converting an indirect command back to direct speech restores the imperative form exactly as it was spoken: 'tell the truth', with the reporting verb 'said'.

49 The prisoner begged the judge to forgive him.

☒ **A. The prisoner said to the judge, "please forgive me"**

☐ **B. The prisoner said to the judge, "please, forgive me"**

☐ **C. The prisoner said to the judge, "forgive me"**

☐ **D. The prisoner said to the me, "please forgive me"**

Explanation

'Begged' signals a polite plea, so the direct quote is restored with 'please' included: 'please forgive me'.

50 She said that she works for Ford.

☒ **A. She said, "I work for Ford"**

☐ **B. She said, "she worked for Ford"**

☐ **C. She said, "she work for Ford"**

☐ **D. She said, "she was working for Ford"**

Explanation

Simple present 'works' stays present tense when restored to direct speech, and the pronoun reverts to the original speaker's own voice: 'she' -> 'I'.