



# Advanced Reported Speech — B2 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 23

## A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. She \_\_\_ taking the file from the archive, which the security log later confirmed.  
A) refused    B) insisted    C) warned    D) denied
2. He \_\_\_ us that the building was structurally sound.  
A) assured    B) said    C) claimed    D) admitted
3. The minister \_\_\_ that the figures had been independently verified.  
A) accused    B) warned    C) congratulated    D) claimed
4. She \_\_\_ me of copying her proposal almost word for word.  
A) blamed    B) accused    C) criticised    D) warned
5. They \_\_\_ him for the delay, though the fault lay with the supplier.  
A) accused    B) denied    C) blamed    D) apologised
6. The consultant \_\_\_ postponing the launch until the second quarter.  
A) told    B) warned    C) advised    D) persuaded
7. Which sentence is INCORRECT?  
A) She suggested that we postpone the meeting.    B) She suggested postponing the meeting.  
C) She suggested us to postpone the meeting.    D) She suggested a postponement.
8. He \_\_\_ to comment on the allegations at any point during the hearing.  
A) denied    B) insisted    C) refused    D) admitted
9. She \_\_\_ me to check the small print before signing anything.  
A) warned    B) suggested    C) recommended    D) insisted
10. She said she \_\_\_ in research, and as far as I know she still does.  
A) worked    B) works    C) had worked    D) would work

## B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ me that the report had already gone to the printers.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ that the meeting had been minuted incorrectly.
3. They accused the department \_\_\_\_\_ withholding the correspondence.

4. She apologised \_\_\_\_\_ arriving so late to her own presentation.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ to sign anything until his solicitor had read it.
6. The surveyor \_\_\_\_\_ us to have the wiring checked before completion.
7. She \_\_\_\_\_ moving the deadline rather than cutting the scope.
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ having any involvement in the decision whatsoever.

### C. Sentence building

5 questions

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*Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.*

1. He / had / invoice. / that / claimed / he / the / paid

*Report an assertion without endorsing it.*

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2. denied / the / taking / She / archive. / from / file / the

*Report a rejection of an accusation, using a gerund.*

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3. comment / to / refused / They / the / findings. / on

*Report a flat refusal with an infinitive.*

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4. figures / warned / She / check / twice. / me / the / to

*Report a warning aimed at a particular person.*

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5. document. / accused / the / He / of / her / leaking

*Report a blame using the preposition of.*

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## Answer key

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*Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.*

### A. Multiple choice

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1. **D) denied** — Deny takes a gerund directly and reports a rejected accusation.
2. **A) assured** — Assure requires an object before the that clause; say cannot take one at all.
3. **D) claimed** — Claim plus a that clause reports an assertion while withholding agreement from it.
4. **B) accused** — Accuse takes an object followed by of plus a gerund.
5. **C) blamed** — Blame takes an object followed by for, unlike accuse which takes of.
6. **C) advised** — Advise can take a gerund when no particular person is being addressed.
7. **C) She suggested us to postpone the meeting.** — Suggest never takes an object plus infinitive, however natural the pattern feels.
8. **C) refused** — Refuse takes a to-infinitive; deny would need a gerund instead.
9. **A) warned** — Warn takes an object followed by a to-infinitive.
10. **B) works** — Backshift is optional when the reported fact is still true at the moment of reporting.

### B. Fill in the blank

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1. **told** — This verb requires a direct object before the reported clause.
2. **insisted** — This verb reports a position maintained firmly against disagreement.
3. **of** — Accuse takes this preposition before a gerund, unlike blame which takes for.
4. **for** — Apologise is followed by this preposition plus a noun or gerund.
5. **refused** — This verb takes a to-infinitive and reports a flat rejection.
6. **advised** — With a person named, this verb takes an object plus a to-infinitive.
7. **suggested** — This verb takes a gerund and can never take an object plus infinitive.
8. **denied** — This verb takes a gerund and rejects an allegation.

### C. Sentence building

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1. **He claimed that he had paid the invoice.**
2. **She denied taking the file from the archive.**
3. **They refused to comment on the findings.**
4. **She warned me to check the figures twice.**
5. **He accused her of leaking the document.**