

# Direct and indirect speech exercise

This grammar exercise tests your ability to use direct and indirect speech correctly.

Fill in the blanks.

1. Ramesh said that he ..... his homework.

- finished
- has finished
- had finished

2. The boy asked his mother ..... he could watch TV.

- if
- that
- weather

3. The man asked the passerby if he ..... help him.

- will
- would
- can

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4. The girl said that I ..... on her seat.

- am sitting
- was sitting
- have been sitting

5. The man asked the boy where .....

- was he going
- he was going
- was going he

6. The girl asked who ..... her pen.

- have taken
- had taken
- would take

7. The teacher advised the students .....  
hard.

- to work
- working
- Either could be used here

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8. The mother told the boy ..... there.

to wait

waiting

Either could be used here

9. The manager asked the clerk .....  
that file to the secretary.

to take

taking

Either could be used here

10. The old man asked me if I ..... help  
him.

will

would

can

11. Ramesh said that he ..... John the  
previous day.

have seen

had seen

would see

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## Answers

1. Ramesh said that he had finished his homework.
2. The boy asked his mother if he could watch TV.
3. The man asked the passerby if he would help him.
4. The girl said that I was sitting on her seat.
5. The man asked the boy where he was going.
6. The girl asked who had taken her pen.
7. The teacher advised the students to work hard.
8. The mother told the boy to wait there.
9. The manager asked the clerk to take that file to the secretary.
10. The old man asked me if I would help him.
11. Ramesh said that he had met John the previous day.