

LEAP INTO ENGLISH

TOEFL PREPARATION COURSE

Grammar Practice.

Reported Speech

Reporting verbs are used to describe what a person or a reading passage says. They are used in academic writing to indicate information taken from sources and convey the writer's interpretation of the material.

Structures with reporting verbs	Example
Reporting verb + <i>that</i> clauses Examples: <i>state, argue, claim, maintain, assert, indicate, suggest, show, agree, disagree</i>	The passage states <u>that</u> TV benefits language development in children. Research indicates <u>that</u> language skills are improved by watching TV. The author of the passage and the professor (both) agree that TV is beneficial to language development.
Reporting verb + noun Examples: <i>reject, refute, contradict, question, challenge, identify, describe, present</i> <i>Agree / Disagree</i> + <i>with</i> + noun <i>Refer</i> + <i>to</i> + noun <i>Agree / Disagree</i> can also stand alone without an object or a clause following it.	The professor contradicts <u>the ideas</u> in the passage. The passage presents <u>two types</u> of language development. The professor agrees with <u>this conclusion</u>. The passage refers to <u>a recent study</u>. The author of the passage asserts that ... but the professor disagrees.
<i>That</i> clauses are often used after these nouns to give more information about the noun: <i>argument, chance, danger, difficulty, effect, evidence, fact, possibility, problem, risk</i>.	The study provides evidence that ... The author supports the argument that ... Research suggests the possibility that ...

Note > *say* and *tell* are more used in spoken language.

Tell must be followed by an object > He *tells* us that the TV is an important educational tool. / He *told* me a secret.

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Practice. Complete the following activities

Choose the correct word or words to complete each sentence

1. The passage _____ that children who watch TV have improved language development.
a agrees **b** claims **c** gives
2. The passage _____ to a study of 200 pre-school children.
a refers **b** claims **c** provides
3. The professor _____ with the view that TV programs can be educational.
a agrees **b** refutes **c** suggests
4. The passage gives an example to _____ how TV programs helped speech development.
a argue **b** contradict **c** show
5. The passage maintains that TV is beneficial but the professor _____.
a claims **b** refutes **c** disagrees
6. The research reveals _____ many TV programs are not educational.
a the fact **b** the fact that **c** the fact of

WORD BUILDING

The prefix *dis-* can be used to make a verb or an adjective into its opposite. Example: *disagree* = *not agree*. Use your dictionary to find the meanings of these words: *disappear*, *distrust*, *disobey*, *dislocate*, *disqualified*, *dissatisfied*.

Complete the text with words from the box

argues concludes gives refutes shows that to with

The passage ¹ _____ that educational programs on TV have a positive effect on young children. However, the professor disagrees ² _____ this conclusion and ³ _____ evidence that ⁴ _____ educational programs are not beneficial for pre-school children. The reading passage suggests ⁵ _____ children who watch TV have better language skills. The professor ⁶ _____ this point by referring ⁷ _____ studies showing that pre-school children who watched TV had slower speech development. She ⁸ _____ that children's TV should be monitored more carefully.

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Read the following summaries. Connect the content between them using reporting verbs. (This activity will help you improve your integrated writing task 1)

- 1. Reading passage:** The language people speak controls how they think. Not only does language shape our thoughts, it limits our perceptions of the world.

Lecture: Brain research has shown that thoughts are independent of language. Although language can cause differences in thought, it does not determine how we think.

- 2. Reading passage:** It is much easier to learn a second language during childhood than as an adult. This is because there is a critical period in childhood up to the age of around fifteen, during which children can easily acquire any language they are exposed to.

Lecture: Adults also have many advantages that children do not have such as study skills and strategies that can speed up the learning process.

- 3. Reading passage:** Most children begin to speak around the age of ten to eighteen months. However, they learn to understand words a long time before that. Several studies have shown that hearing language being used around them stimulates a child's brain to grow.

Lecture: Young children need to be provided with many different kinds of linguistic stimuli so that they can develop their language skills. It is important not to criticize or correct mistakes because they are part of the learning process as it is possible that this may inhibit language development.