

## REPORTING VERBS

### INTRODUCTORY VERBS

#### VERB + FULL INFINITIVE

Agree	"Yes, I'll do it"	He agreed to do it
Offer	"Shall I open the window for you?"	He offered to open the window
Promise	"I promise I'll finish it"	He promised to finish it
Refuse	"I won't do it"	He refused to do it
Threaten	"Leave or I'll call the police"	He threatened to call the police

#### VERB+SB+FULL INFINITIVE

Advise	"You should stop smoking"	He advised me to stop smoking
Ask	"Please, lend me some money"	He asked me to lend him some money
Beg	"Please, please help me"	He begged me to help him
Invite	"Would you like to come to the party?"	He invited me to come to the party
Order	"Shut up" he said	He ordered me to shut up
Remind	"Don't forget to send the letter"	He reminded me to send the letter
Warn	"Don't touch the iron"	He warned me not to touch the iron

#### VERB + GERUND

Admit	"Yes, I broke the window!"	He admitted breaking/having broken the window
Deny	"I didn't break the window"	He denied breaking/having broken the window

#### VERB+PREPOSITION+ GERUND

Insist on	"You must stay to dinner"	He insisted on me/my staying to dinner
Accuse sb of	"You stole my necklace"	She accused me of stealing her necklace
Apologise for	"I'm sorry I didn't tell you"	He apologized for not telling me
Congratulate on	"Congratulations! You passed the test!"	He congratulated me on passing the exam
Boast about	"I'm richer than you"	He boasted about being richer than me

#### VERB+THAT

Deny	"I never touch your necklace"	He denied that he had touched my necklace
Admit	"Yes, I did it"	He admitted he had done it
Promise	"I won't be late again"	He promised that he wouldn't be late again
Agree	"Yes, we'll go together"	He agreed that we would go together
Explain	"These verbs are difficult to learn"	He explained that those verbs were difficult
Complain	"You never phone me"	He complained that I never phoned him

#### SUGGEST

Suggest + gerund	He suggested going to the cinema
Suggest + that+ subj+(should) + V	He suggested that we go to the cinema He suggested that we went to the cinema

### **Negatives**

To make the verbs that we have reported negative, we need to look at the verb pattern:

- When there's a clause, we make the negative in the usual way: She said that she didn't like ice cream.
- When there's 'to + infinitive', we generally put 'not' before 'to': He promised not to do it again.
- When there's 'verb-ing', we generally put 'not' in front of it: I advise not taking the bus.

### **Advanced Point**

In formal English, some verbs that are followed by '(that) + clause' use the infinitive instead of a present tense verb. Some people suggest that this is a kind of subjunctive in English. You only need to worry about this in very formal writing.

Mostly, this doesn't make a difference, because the present simple form in English is often the same as the infinitive form. But when the subject is 'he', 'she' or 'it' or when the verb is 'be', we can see it clearly.

- I advise that he go to bed early. (Normally we'd expect: I advise that he goes to bed early.)
- I insist that she come now. (Normally we'd expect: I insist that she comes now.)
- They suggested that the cats be put in the garden for the night. (Normally we'd expect: They suggested that the cats are put in the garden for the night.)