

REPORTING VERBS

INTRODUCTORY VERBS

VERB + FULL INFINITIVE

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

VERB+SB+FULL INFINITIVE

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

VERB + GERUND

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

VERB+PREPOSITION+ GERUND

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

VERB+THAT

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

SUGGEST

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

Suggest + that + subj + past simple

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.)