

Different reporting verbs take different grammatical patterns. Some verbs can take more than one pattern.

Pattern: verb + noun

Verbs:

deny
say
suggest
tell (certain phrases)

Examples:

Katie **denied the accusation**.
When Angie **said the price**, I couldn't believe it!
I **suggest the blue suit** for the wedding.
Why don't you **tell that joke** about the merchant banker?

Pattern: verb + that clause

Verbs:

claim
deny
say
state
suggest

Examples:

Katie **claimed (that)** she wasn't a shoplifter.
Katie **denied (that)** she was a shoplifter.
Katie **said (that)** she wasn't a shoplifter.
Katie **stated (that)** she wasn't a shoplifter.
The police **suggested (that)** Katie empty her pockets.

Pattern: verb + -ing

Verbs:

deny
suggest

Examples:

Katie **denied stealing** the chocolate biscuits.
The police **suggested checking** the security video.

Pattern: verb + full infinitive

Verbs:

agree
claim
refuse

Examples:

Katie **agreed to empty** her pockets.
Katie **claimed to be** innocent.
The police **refused to believe** Katie.

Pattern: verb + someone + full infinitive

Verbs:

ask
beg
command
order
tell

Examples:

The police **asked Katie to empty** her pockets.
Katie **begged the policewoman to believe** her.
The judge **commanded Katie to replace** the biscuits.
The judge **ordered Katie to replace** the biscuits.
The judge **told Katie never to steal** again.

Pattern: verb (+ to + someone) + for + -ing

Verb:

apologise

Example:

Katie **apologised (to everyone) for causing** so much trouble.

Pattern: verb + someone + noun

Verbs:

ask
tell (certain phrases)

Examples:

The judge **asked Katie a question**.
Katie **told the judge the truth**.