

## 5.5 Grammar

### Reporting verbs

*I can use a range of reporting verbs correctly.*

- 1 In pairs, look at the title of the article below. What do you think it means? Then read Part 1 of the article. What's the answer?



#### SPOILT BRAT OR NEGLECTED CHILD?

US teenager Rachel Canning took her parents to court and tried to sue them for financial support. She accused them of abandoning her when she had turned eighteen and refusing to fund her college

education. She **claimed** that they had thrown her out of her home and **explained** that she had been living at a friend's house.

Mr Canning refused to accept his daughter's version of events.

- 10 He denied kicking Rachel out and **assured** the court that she had left voluntarily after an argument about household rules and her choice of boyfriends. He **suggested** that Rachel's friends had encouraged her to take the matter to court. He **insisted** that he and his wife loved and missed their child and **added** that the situation was having a terrible effect on them.

- 15 He begged his daughter to come home soon.
- 2 Translate the verbs in blue in Exercise 1. Which five can be replaced with *said*? Which one can be replaced with *told*?

- 3 Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS. Then find five more reporting verbs in Exercise 1. Which verb patterns do they illustrate?

#### GRAMMAR FOCUS

##### Reporting verbs

##### 1 Verbs without a direct object

• **verb + that clause:** add, admit, agree, claim, deny, explain, insist, promise, propose, recommend, suggest  
She **promised** that she would come home.

• **verb + to-infinitive:** agree, claim, offer, promise, refuse  
He **offered** to help.

• **verb + -ing form:** admit, deny, propose, recommend, suggest  
They **suggested** talking to the lawyer.

• **verb + preposition + -ing form:** apologise for, object to, insist on  
I **insisted** on paying for everything.

##### 2 Verbs with a direct object

• **verb + object + that clause:** assure, convince, inform, promise, remind, warn  
She **assured** me that she was OK.

**verb + object + to-infinitive:** advise, beg, convince, encourage, invite, order, persuade, remind, urge, warn (not)  
He **begged** them to leave.

• **verb + object + preposition + -ing form:** accuse sb of, blame sb for, congratulate sb on, thank sb for  
I **accused** her of telling lies.

- 4 Read Part 2 of the article and choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D. Do you agree with the judge's decision?

The judge rejected the teenager's demands and <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ everyone in the court that in future, children may consider suing their parents for a smartphone. The judge <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Rachel and her family to have family counselling. The teenager has <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to return home and the Cannings have <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the media to give the family some privacy while they work things out. The parents have <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to relax the house rules and in return, Rachel has <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ them that she won't leave home again.



Rachel Canning and her father in court

- 1 A warned B explained C promised D suggested  
2 A denied B insisted C advised D reminded  
3 A agreed B proposed C reminded D ordered  
4 A refused B warned C insisted D urged  
5 A convinced B offered C suggested D told  
6 A agreed B denied C warned D promised

- 5 Some reporting verbs can follow two or more patterns. Report each of these sentences in two different ways.

- 1 'I did not kick my daughter out!' Rachel's father denied ...  
2 'We reckon you should take your parents to court.' Rachel's friends suggested ...  
3 'We have been terribly upset.' Her parents admitted ...  
4 'You should have some family counselling.' The judge recommended ...  
5 'OK. We'll relax some of the house rules.' Rachel's parents promised ...  
6 'All right. I'll move back in.' Rachel agreed ...

- 6 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box. Use the correct verb pattern. Add *me* if necessary.

buy have lose not copy owe redecorate

Recently:

- 1 my friends have persuaded \_\_\_\_\_ a haircut.  
2 my brother/sister has accused \_\_\_\_\_ his/her camera.  
3 a teacher has warned \_\_\_\_\_ homework from the Internet.  
4 a friend has reminded \_\_\_\_\_ him/her some money.  
5 my grandparents have offered \_\_\_\_\_ me a laptop.  
6 Dad has suggested \_\_\_\_\_ my bedroom.

- 7 In pairs, discuss whether the sentences in Exercise 6 are true for you. Use the sentence beginnings to report other things that people have said to you.

# Reporting Verbs

## say and tell

We usually use the verbs *say* or *tell* to report what someone said:

- *say*

*He said (that) he was getting married.*

- *say + to + object*

*He said to me (that) he was getting married.*

- *tell + object*

*He told me (that) he was getting married.*

...but those aren't the only alternatives, are they?

Verbs without a direct object	Verbs with a direct object
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• verb + (that) (e.g. <i>add, admit, agree, claim, complain, deny, explain, insist, promise, propose, recommend, regret, suggest</i>): <i>'I wasted a lot of money.'</i> _ <i>Sue complained (that) she had wasted a lot of money.</i></li> <li>• verb + to-infinitive (e.g. <i>agree, claim, decide, offer, promise, refuse, threaten</i>): <i>'I'll hire two new employees.'</i> _ <i>The manager decided to hire two new employees.</i></li> <li>• verb + -ing form (e.g. <i>admit, deny, propose, recommend, regret, suggest</i>): <i>'I didn't take the money.'</i> _ <i>The cashier denied taking the money.</i></li> <li>• verb + preposition + -ing form (e.g. <i>apologise for, insist on, object to</i>): <i>'I'm sorry I was rude.'</i> _ <i>I apologised for being rude.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• verb + object + (that) (e.g. <i>advise, assure, convince, inform, persuade, promise, remind, tell, warn</i>): <i>'The meeting will start in an hour.'</i> _ <i>The secretary reminded them (that) the meeting would start in an hour</i></li> <li>• verb + object + to-infinitive (e.g. <i>advise, ask, beg, convince, encourage, invite, order, persuade, recommend, remind, tell, warn, urge</i>): <i>'You really should apply for this job.'</i> _ <i>Everybody encouraged me to apply for that job.</i></li> <li>• verb + object + preposition + -ing form (e.g. <i>accuse sb of, blame sb for, criticise sb for, congratulate sb on, praise sb for, suspect sb of, thank sb for</i>): <i>'It's your fault that the car was damaged.'</i> _ <i>Joe's boss blames him for damaging the car.</i></li> </ul>