Reporting clauses

In reporting clauses, verbs such as *admit*, *agree*, *announce*, *comment*, *complain*, *confess*, *disclose*, *explain*, *inform*, and *reveal* are frequently followed by an indirect object. In this case, *that* should be retained for clarity.

Several people **agreed with me that** logic, not superstition, is the best way to make decisions.
Max **explained to the teacher that** a black cat never means bad luck in his country.

The following nouns are also often used in reporting clauses. Here, too, *that* is helpful in making the meaning clear and should be retained.

accusation	assertion	comment	explanation	response
argument	claim	decision	remark	suggestion

Bill made the **assertion that** he'd have no luck at all if it weren't for bad luck.
Liliana repeated her **argument that** only foolish people believe in magic.
The class rejected Niran's **suggestion that** we cancel class on Friday the 13th.

1 Using the words in parentheses, rewrite these sentences with reporting clauses in the simple past.

1. He had an irrational fear of spiders. (Luis / admit / his friend)
   Luis admitted to his friend that he had an irrational fear of spiders.
2. Some people really are luckier than others. (Min / agree / me)
3. There are too many pigeons in the park. (many people / complain / park staff)
4. He had spent his father's lucky dollar on candy. (Marco / confess / his mother)
5. It's bad luck to step on a crack in the sidewalk. (Marcie / explain / her little sister)
6. The day he met his wife was the luckiest day of his life. (Felix / announce / his wedding guests)

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2 Combine the sentences using a reporting clause with one of the nouns from the grammar box.

1. Kim accused Anna of being a superstitious person. Anna didn't agree.
   Anna didn't agree with Kim's accusation that she was a superstitious person.
2. Gianna argues that everything happens for a reason. Many people disagree.
3. Leslie asserted that superstition is based in fear. Carlos didn't understand.
4. Jae-woo decided that a trip to Las Vegas was what he needed. We were surprised.
5. Ernesto commented that hard work is more important than luck. Lily repeated what he said.
6. Hiroshi claimed he had won the chess game thanks to beginner's luck. Sandra didn't believe him.
7. Patrick remarked that Tanya probably shouldn't push her luck. Tanya ignored what he said.
8. Mr. Wang responded that actions speak louder than words. I understood him.

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