

3B Verb patterns and reporting

We use lots of different verbs to report what people say. These verbs are followed by a range of different patterns. Below are some examples, but remember that many reporting verbs can be followed by more than one pattern:

- verb + object, e.g. *admit, cite, confirm, criticise, demand, defend, dismiss, praise, reject*

The judge **cited the case of Apple versus Samsung** when he gave his ruling.

- verb + infinitive with *to*, e.g. *beg, demand, guarantee, promise, refuse, threaten, vow*

He **vowed to appeal** the verdict.

- verb + object + infinitive with *to*, e.g. *advise, beg, encourage, order, persuade, remind, urge, warn*

The judge **urged the jury to avoid** any media during the trial.

- verb + *-ing*, e.g. *admit, advise, consider, defend, deny, discuss, recommend, suggest*

The driver **denied causing** the fatal crash...

Note that we often use *express* with different emotions such as concern, joy, regret, relief, or sadness.

The defendant **expressed no regret** for his actions.

- verb + (that) clause, e.g. *admit, announce, argue, boast, claim, confess, confirm, deny, insist, promise, vow*

He **claimed that** he didn't know the victim.

- verb + object + (that) clause, e.g. *assure, convince, persuade, promise, remind, tell, warn*

My lawyer **assured me that** we would win the case.

- verb (+ object) + preposition, e.g. *accuse of, apologise for, blame on/for, criticise for/over, forgive for, insist on*

Our neighbours **accused us of** damaging their pot plants.

I know they **blame me for** the accident.

With reporting verbs, we often summarise the general content rather than report the exact words. Compare:

He said, 'It came to me as a complete surprise when the police turned up. I had no idea what was going on.'

He denied knowing anything about it.