

# Reporting verbs

## Reporting verbs + gerunds

* admit (to) + gerund	'Yes, I stole the plans.'	He <b>admitted (to) stealing/having stolen</b> the plans.
accuse sb of	'You lied to me.'	She <b>accused me of lying/having lied</b> to her.
apologise for	'I'm sorry I shouted at you.'	He <b>apologised for shouting/having shouted</b> at me.
* boast about/of	'I'm the cleverest of all.'	He <b>boasted of/about being</b> the cleverest of all.
complain to sb of	'I have a headache.'	She <b>complained to me of having</b> a headache.
deny	'I didn't take your bag.'	He <b>denied taking/having taken</b> my bag.
* insist on	'You must do your work.'	She <b>insisted on me/my doing</b> my work.
suggest	'Let's visit Jane.'	She <b>suggested visiting</b> Jane.

## Reporting verbs + to infinitive

introductory verb	direct speech	reported speech
agree + to-inf	'Yes, I'll give you a lift.'	She <b>agreed to give</b> me a lift.
offer	'Shall I carry the boxes?'	He <b>offered to carry</b> the boxes.
promise	'I promise I'll help you.'	He <b>promised to help</b> me.
refuse	'No, I won't buy you a car.'	She <b>refused to buy</b> me a car.
* threaten	'Stop talking or I'll send you out.'	He <b>threatened to send</b> me out if I didn't stop talking.
* advise + sb + to-inf	'You should see a doctor.'	He <b>advised me to see</b> a doctor.
ask	'Could you do something for me?'	She <b>asked me to do</b> something for her.
beg	'Please, please call the police.'	She <b>begged me to call</b> the police.
command	'Drop your weapons!'	He <b>commanded them to drop</b> their weapons.
invite	'Will you come to my party?'	She <b>invited me to (go to)</b> her party.
order	'Get out of the house!'	She <b>ordered me to get out of</b> the house.
* remind	'Don't forget to write to Paul.'	She <b>reminded me to write</b> to Paul.
* warn	'Don't go near the oven.'	She <b>warned me not to go</b> near the oven.

## Reporting verbs + that + clause

complain + that	'You're always late.'	She <b>complained that</b> I was always late.
deny	'I didn't take the money.'	She <b>denied that</b> she had taken the money.
explain	'It's a difficult situation.'	He <b>explained that</b> it was a difficult situation.
exclaim/remark	'What a beautiful baby he is!'	She <b>exclaimed/remarked that</b> he was a beautiful baby.
promise	'I promise I'll call you.'	She <b>promised that</b> she would call me.
suggest	'You'd better go home.'	He <b>suggested that</b> I (should) go home.

realise  
think  
wonder  
know  
admit

The reporting verbs *realise*, *think*, *wonder* and *know* have the same pattern as *say* and *ask* (see Reported speech).  
She **realised (that)** she had forgotten to switch off her computer.  
They **knew (that)** she was coming to visit at the weekend.  
Patrick **wondered if** they read his blog.

Complete the sentences with two to five words, including the word in bold.

- 'I will fire you if you arrive late again,' he said to her.  
**threatened** He ... **threatened to fire** ... her if she arrived late again.
- 'Why don't we buy Emma a present?' Jane said.  
**should** Jane ..... Emma a present.
- 'You ate my bar of chocolate!' Sarah said to Mike.  
**accused** Sarah ..... her bar of chocolate.
- 'I borrowed your favourite jumper,' David said.  
**admitted** David ..... my favourite jumper.
- 'Don't forget to lock all the doors and windows,' Mum said to me.  
**reminded** Mum ..... all the doors and windows.
- 'I didn't leave the garden gate open!' she said.  
**denied** She ..... the garden gate open.
- 'Let's meet for lunch,' he said.  
**meeting** He ..... for lunch.
- 'No, I won't do your homework for you,' Danny said.  
**refused** Danny ..... for me.
- 'You must come to the theatre with me,' said Jane.  
**on** Jane ..... to the theatre with her.
- 'I'm sorry I broke your favourite cup,' said Sam.  
**for** Sam ..... my favourite cup.
- 'Will you come to dinner with me?' said Paul.  
**invited** Paul ..... to dinner with him.
- 'What a beautiful dress!' said Julie.  
**exclaimed** Julie ..... a beautiful dress.
- 'I feel very tired,' she said to me.  
**feeling** She ..... very tired.
- 'I promise I'll visit you next week,' he said to her.  
**promised** He ..... next week.