

Reported orders/requests/commands

- To report commands, requests, and orders we use a special introductory verb (e.g. warn, order, ask, request, suggest, etc.) followed by a to–infinitive, an –ing form or a that –clause depending on the introductory verb.

e.g. “Brush your teeth before you go to bed,” said the dentist.

- The dentist **advised** me **to brush** my teeth before I go to bed.
“Keep medicine out of children’s reach,” said the doctor.
- The doctor **warned us to keep** medicine out of children’s reach.

Note: To report direct commands we usually use the imperative. e.g.

“Stop talking,” the teacher said. The teacher told us to stop talking.

“Don’t step on the grass,” said the gardener. The gardener asked us not to step on the grass.

- To report negative commands and requests, we usually use not +to-infinitive

e.g. “Don’t go near the cliff, it’s dangerous!” the guide said. The guide told us not to go near the cliff because it was dangerous.

Introductory Verbs

introductory verb	direct speech	reported speech
agree + to-inf offer promise refuse *threaten	'Yes, I'll give you a lift.' 'Shall I carry the boxes?' 'I promise I'll help you.' 'No, I won't buy you a car.' 'Stop talking or I'll send you out.'	She agreed to give me a lift. He offered to carry the boxes. He promised to help me. She refused to buy me a car. He threatened to send me out if I didn't stop talking.
*advise + sb + to-inf ask beg command invite order *remind *warn	'You should see a doctor.' 'Could you do something for me?' 'Please, please call the police.' 'Drop your weapons!' 'Will you come to my party?' 'Get out of the house!' 'Don't forget to write to Paul.' 'Don't go near the oven.'	He advised me to see a doctor. She asked me to do something for her. She begged me to call the police. He commanded them to drop their weapons. She invited me to (go to) her party. She ordered me to get out of the house. She reminded me to write to Paul. She warned me not to go near the oven.
*admit (to) + gerund accuse sb of apologise for *boast about/of complain to sb of deny *insist on suggest	'Yes, I stole the plans.' 'You lied to me.' 'I'm sorry I shouted at you.' 'I'm the cleverest of all.' 'I have a headache.' 'I didn't take your bag.' 'You must do your work.' 'Let's visit Jane.'	He admitted (to) stealing/having stolen the plans. She accused me of lying/having lied to her. He apologised for shouting/having shouted at me. He boasted of/about being the cleverest of all. She complained to me of having a headache. He denied taking/having taken my bag. She insisted on me/my doing my work. She suggested visiting Jane.
complain + that deny explain exclaim/remark promise suggest	'You're always late.' 'I didn't take the money.' 'It's a difficult situation.' 'What a beautiful baby he is!' 'I promise I'll call you.' 'You'd better go home.'	She complained that I was always late. She denied that she had taken the money. He explained that it was a difficult situation. She exclaimed/remarked that he was a beautiful baby. She promised that she would call me. He suggested that I (should) go home.

* **Note:** *admit, advise, boast, insist, threaten, warn, remind* can also be followed by a **that**-clause in reported speech.

Tick the correct sentence.



1. "Let's go to Venice."

- a) George suggested going to Venice.
- b) George suggested we going to Venice.

2. "You have lost the report."

- a) My boss accused me of losing the report.
- b) My boss accused on me that I lost the report.

3. "I have earache"

- a) She complained that I have earache.
- b) She complained to me of having earache

4. "I'll buy you the doll."

- a) He promised to buy me the doll.
- b) He promised to buying me the doll.

5. "Tidy up your room!"

- a) Mum ordered me not to tidy up my room.
- b) Mm ordered me to tidy up my room.