

■ Imran **will ask** Jake **if** he **passed** his exam.
We don't use **wonder if** or **want to know** when we report what someone is going to ask in the future:

- Fran is **going to ask if** she can leave work early. (NOT ~~Fran is going to wonder if she can leave work early.~~)

2 reporting instructions, orders and requests

If we are reporting a request, we usually use the form **ask someone to do something**:

- Tony **asked me to move** my chair.
- The nurse **is asking the patients to wait** in the waiting room.

If we are reporting a polite request, we use **ask if** with **could** or **would**:

- I **asked** Ahmed **if** he **could lend** me his pencil.
- Dr Thomas **asked** Michael **if** he **would take off** his shirt.

When we give an instruction, we use **tell someone to do something**:

- Anna **told me to move** out of her seat.
- The doctor **is telling Mr Harris to take** his medicine.

To report a negative instruction or request we use **tell / ask someone not to do something**:

- The teacher **told** us **not to** make so much noise.
- We **asked** the people at the back **not to** push.

Note: We do not usually say **to not** after **tell** and **ask**:

- We **asked** the people at the back **not to** push. (NOT ~~We asked the people at the back to not push.~~)

3 other verbs used for reporting

There are other verbs which describe what someone says, such as **persuade**, **order**, and **advise**. These are used like **tell someone to do something** or **tell someone not to do something**:

- Her boss **persuaded** Elena **to go** home.
- The teacher **advised** Helen **to do** some extra revision.

We can also **invite someone to do something**:

- Gordon **invited** Saffron **to dance** with him.

Other verbs, such as **agree**, **insist**, **admit**, and **suggest**, can be used in reporting speech. We use them like **said**, with or without **that**, and a new clause:

- Gail **agreed** (that) it was time to leave.
- Gail **insisted** (that) she should drive.
- Gary **admitted** (that) he had stolen the car.

After **admit**, **suggest**, and **advise** we can use an **ing form** in place of the **that clause**:

- John admitted that he had stolen the money. → John admitted **stealing** the money.
- Mike suggested that they take the train. → Mike suggested **taking** the train.
- The teacher advised **doing** some extra revision.

After **insist** we can use **on + ing form**:

- Tim **insisted on bringing** his dog.

After **agree** we can use **to + infinitive**:

- She **agreed to meet** us the next evening.

Note: We don't always use a verb after **ask** or **invite**, as they can both mean *ask someone to come*:

- Madeleine **invited** Dawn (to come) **to** her party on Saturday.
- She **asked** Karen **to** her party too.