

REPORTING VERBS

Reporting verbs are verbs that serve to report what someone else has said. Reporting verbs are different than the reported speech in that they are **used to paraphrase** what someone has said. Reported speech is used when reporting exactly what someone has said. To do this, use 'say' and 'tell'.

John told me he was going to stay late at work.

Jennifer told Peter she had lived in Berlin for ten years.

Peter said he wanted to visit his parents that weekend.

My friend said he would finish his work soon.

Other verbs used with reported speech include 'mention' and 'comment'. Here are some examples:

Tom mentioned he enjoyed playing tennis.

Alice mentioned she could take care of the kids this weekend.

The teacher commented the students weren't getting their homework done on time.

The man commented he felt tired after such a long journey.

When using reported speech, change the verb used by the original speaker to match your usage. In other words, if you report using 'said,' you need to move everything back one step into the past. There are also pronoun changes and time cue changes that need to be made as appropriate in reported speech.

"I like playing tennis." - Tom mentioned he liked playing tennis.

"I have lived in Berlin for ten years." - Jennifer told Peter she had lived in Berlin for ten years.

Say and tell are the most common reporting verbs used to report what others have said. However, there are a number of other reporting verbs which can more accurately describe what someone has said. These verbs take a variety of structures that differ from reported speech. For example:

Original Statement

I will come to your party. I promise.

Reported Speech

He said he would come to my party.

Reporting Verb

He promised to come to my party.

In this example, reported speech changes the original verb to 'would' as well as changing the possessive pronoun 'your' to 'my'. In contrast, the reporting verb 'promise' is simply followed by the infinitive. There are a number of formulas used with reporting verbs. Use the chart below to identify the structure required.

The following list gives you reporting verbs in various categories based on sentence structure. Note that a number of verbs can take more than one form.

verb object infinitive	verb infinitive	verb (that)	verb gerund	verb object preposition gerund	verb preposition gerund
		admit			
	agree	agree			
advise	decide	decide			
encourage	offer	deny	deny	accuse	
invite	promise	explain	recommend	blame	apologize
remind	refuse	insist	suggest	congratulate	insist
warn	threaten	promise			
		recommend			
		suggest			
		Examples:			
Examples:		<i>Tom admitted</i>			
<i>Jack encouraged</i>	Examples:	<i>(that) he had</i>			
<i>me to look for a</i>	<i>She offered to</i>	<i>tried to leave</i>			
<i>new job.</i>	<i>give him a lift</i>	<i>early.</i>	Examples:	Examples:	Examples:
	<i>to work.</i>		<i>He denied</i>	<i>They accused the</i>	<i>He apologized</i>
<i>They invited all</i>	<i>My brother</i>	<i>She agreed (that)</i>	<i>having anything</i>	<i>boys of cheating on</i>	<i>for being late.</i>
<i>their friends to</i>	<i>refused to take</i>	<i>we needed to</i>	<i>to do with her.</i>	<i>the exam.</i>	
<i>attend the</i>	<i>no for an</i>	<i>reconsider our</i>	<i>Ken suggested</i>	<i>She blamed her</i>	<i>She insisted on</i>
<i>presentation.</i>	<i>answer.</i>	<i>plans.</i>	<i>studying early in</i>	<i>husband for missing</i>	<i>doing the</i>
			<i>the morning.</i>	<i>the train.</i>	<i>washing up.</i>
<i>Bob warned his</i>	<i>Mary decided</i>	<i>The teacher</i>			
<i>friend not to open</i>	<i>to attend</i>	<i>insisted that he</i>			
<i>the can of worms.</i>	<i>university.</i>	<i>didn't give</i>	<i>Alice</i>	<i>The mother</i>	<i>Peter</i>
		<i>enough</i>	<i>recommends</i>	<i>congratulated her</i>	<i>apologized for</i>
<i>I advised the</i>	<i>He threatened</i>	<i>homework.</i>	<i>playing golf in</i>	<i>daughter on</i>	<i>interrupting</i>
<i>students to study</i>	<i>to sue the</i>		<i>Bend, Oregon.</i>	<i>graduating from</i>	<i>the mee</i>
<i>carefully for the</i>	<i>company.</i>	<i>Our manager</i>		<i>college.</i>	
<i>test.</i>		<i>suggested we</i>			
		<i>take some time</i>			
		<i>off work.</i>			