

# REPORTING VERBS

When reporting someone's words we usually move one tense further into the past. So *simple present* becomes *simple past*, *simple past* becomes *past perfect*, etc.

☞ "Jill doesn't like you." ➤ Paul told me that Jill **didn't like** me.

☞ "I saw you at the airport yesterday." ➤ Linda said that she **had seen** me at the airport the day before.

a) The verbs "say" and "tell" are common reporting verbs and follow the structure:

**(that) + subject + verb(s)**

*admit, announce, answer, claim, complain, confess, declare, explain, inform, insist, mention, promise, reply, state, suggest...*

b) Promises, orders, offers, requests, advice, suggestions

... are often reported using **to infinitive**:

☞ "Shall I call a taxi?" ➤ She **offered to call** a taxi.

☞ "Don't make so much noise." ➤ The teacher **asked me not to make** so much noise.

*agree, advise, ask, beg, decide, demand, invite, offer, order, promise, refuse, remind, tell, threaten, warn...*

c) Some verbs are followed by **-ing**:

☞ "Sorry I 'm late." ➤ Paul **apologised for being** late.

☞ "Sorry I was late." ➤ Paul **apologised for having been** late.

*accuse of, admit (to), confess to, congratulated for, deny, insist on, regret, thank for ...*

d) The special use of "suggest" - "Why not go out to eat something?"

Michael suggested

➤ **(that) we should go** out to eat something. (subject + should + infinitive)

➤ **(that) we went** out to eat something. (subject + past)

➤ **going** out to eat something. (-ing)

REPORT the following as indicated below.

1. "Don't worry! I'll talk to your mother."



2. "I didn't break this."



3. "You didn't forget my birthday."



4. "I want to speak with my lawyer."



5. "You never take my advice."



6. "Have lunch with me."



8. "You must push this button first."



7. "Please, don't fire me."



9. "I'm not going to cut his hair."



10. "I really must see your homework, Brian."



11. "You started the fire, didn't you?"



12. "I won't be late again."



13. "Just buy a new car."



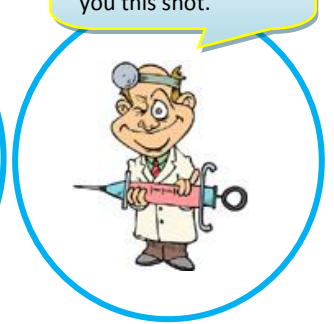
14. "Let me help you with these."



15. "Congrats! You've won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize."



16. "Sorry, but I really have to give you this shot."



17. "I didn't do my homework."



18. "Yes, I lied to you."



19. "Things are not going as planned, dear."



20. "Stop that whining, son."



1. My teacher agreed...

2. He denied...

3. She thanked him for...

4. She demanded...

5. My mother complained...

6. He invited me...

7. He begged his boss...

8. He explained...

9. He refused...

10. Brian's father insisted on...

11. He accused me of...

12. He promised himself...

13. His friend suggested...

14. The man offered...

15. He congratulated me for...

16. The doctor apologised for...

17. He confessed ...

18. Kate admitted to...

19. He informed his wife...

20. The coach ordered him...

KEY

1. ...TO TALK WITH MY MOTHER.

2. ... HAVING BROKEN THAT.

3. ... NOT HAVING FORGOTTEN HER BIRTHDAY.

4. ...TO SPEAK WITH HER LAWYER.

5. ...(THAT) I NEVER TOOK HER ADVICE.

6. ...TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM.

7. ...NOT TO FIRE HIM.

8. ...(THAT) I HAD TO PUSH THAT BUTTON FIRST.

9. ...TO CUT HIS HAIR.

10. ...SEEING HIS HOMEWORK.

11. ...STARTING THE FIRE.

12. ...(THAT) HE WOULDN'T BE LATE / NOT TO BE LATE AGAIN

13. ...(THAT) HE SHOULD BUY/ (THAT) HE BOUGHT/ BUYING...

14. ... TO HELP HER WITH THOSE.

15. ... HAVING WON THE 1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE.

16. ...HAVING TO GIVE ME THAT SHOT.

17. ...(THAT) HE HADN'T DONE / TO NOT HAVING DONE HIS...

18. ...HAVING LIED TO ME.

19. ...(THAT) THINGS WERE NOT GOING AS PLANNED.

20. ...TO STOP THAT WHINING.