

REPORTING VERBS: PATTERNS

INTRODUCTORY VERBS

DIRECT SPEECH

REPORTED SPEECH

*Agree+to inf

Offer
Promise
Refuse
Threaten

"Yes, I'll help you"
"Shall I open the door?"
"Of course I'll pay you"
"No, I won't go with you".
"Stop crying or I'll punish you"

He **agreed to** help me.
He **offered to** open the door.
He **promised to** pay me.
He **refused to** go with us.
He **threatened to** punish me if I didn't stop crying.

*Advise+sb+to-inf

Ask
Beg
Command
Invite
Order
Remind
Warn

"You should see a lawyer".
"Could you help me?"
"Please, please don't hurt her!"
"Stand to attention!"
"Will you have dinner with me?"
"Leave the cat alone!"
"Don't forget to ring Ann."
"Don't go near the rocks".

He **advised me to** see a lawyer.
He **asked me to** help him.
He **begged me not to** hurt her.
He **commanded the soldiers to** stand to attention.
He **invited me to** have dinner with him.
She **ordered me to** leave the cat alone.
She **reminded me to** ring Ann.
He **warned me not to** go near the rocks

*Admit + gerund

Accuse sb of "
Apologise for
Boast of/ about
Complain to sb of
Deny
Insist on
(say one) prefers
Suggest

"Yes, I told her the secret"
"You took the money".
"I'm sorry I arrived so late".
"I'm the fastest of all"
"I have a toothache"
"I didn't take the book"
"You must come with us"
"I'd rather do it myself".
"Let's have a party".

He **admitted telling/having told** her the secret.
He **accused me of taking/having taken** the money
He **apologized for arriving/having arrived** so late
He **boasted of/ about being** the fastest of all.
He **complained to me of having** a toothache.
He **denied taking/having taken** the book
He **insisted on me/my going** with them.
He **said he preferred doing/to** do it himself.
He **suggested having** a party.

*Agree+that-clause

Complain
Deny
Explain
Exclaim/remark
Promise
Suggest

"Yes, it's a big house".
"You are always lying to me!"
"I didn't take that book."
"That's why I didn't take it"
"What a sunny day it is!"
"Of course I'll help you."
"You'd better see a doctor".

He **agreed that** it was a big house.
He **complained that** I was always lying to him.
He **denied that** he had taken the book.
He **explained to me why/that** he hadn't taken it.
He **exclaimed/remarked that** I was a sunny day.
He **promised that** he would help me.
He **suggested that** I (should) see a doctor.

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