

9.5 REPORTING VERBS AND THEIR PATTERNS

9.5A A large number of reporting verbs indicate the function of the original speech, e.g:
 Using different reporting verbs
 'You should stop smoking.' → He **advised** her to stop smoking. (advice)
 'If you do that again, I'll call the police.' → He **threatened** to call the police. (warning)
 In informal conversation we usually report speech using the introductory verbs *say* and *tell*. In more formal speech and writing, we use a greater variety of introductory verbs:
 'I think you should inform the judge.'
 Dad **told** me he thought I should inform the judge.
 The lawyer **advised** me to inform the judge.

9.5B There are several different patterns used after reporting verbs:
 Patterns

verb only 'I'm really sorry.' → She apologised .	agree, apologise, refuse
verb + (that) clause 'I hacked into the company's accounts system.' → He admitted (that) he had hacked into the company's accounts system.	accept, acknowledge, add, admit, advise, agree, announce, answer*, argue, assert, assume, believe, boast, comment, complain, concede, conclude, confess, continue*, decide, declare, deny, doubt, exclaim, expect, explain, foresee, imagine, imply, insist, know, mention, notice, observe, point out, predict, promise, protest, recommend, remark, repeat, reply*, report, respond, reveal, say, shout*, state, suggest, vow, whisper (* = that is obligatory)
verb + object + that clause 'Don't worry. You'll arrive on time.' → She reassured me that I would arrive on time.	advise, assure, inform, reassure, remind, tell, warn
verb + to infinitive 'We'll pick up the children, if you like.' → They offered to pick up the children.	agree, demand, guarantee, offer, propose, refuse, swear, threaten, volunteer, vow
verb (+ optional object) + to infinitive 'Please can I use the car?' → She asked to use the car. 'Please let me stay.' → She begged us to let her stay.	ask (sb), beg (sb), expect (sb), promise (sb)
verb + object + to + infinitive 'You shouldn't say anything.' → I advised him not to say anything.	advise, allow, challenge, command, compel, encourage, expect, forbid, force, implore, instruct, invite, order, permit, persuade, remind, request, tell, urge, warn
verb + object + to + infinitive + complement 'Muhammad Ali was the greatest boxer ever.' → She considers Muhammad Ali to have been the greatest boxer ever.	acknowledge, assume, believe, claim, consider, declare, expect, feel, find, presume, suppose, think, understand
verb + -ing form 'I didn't do it.' → He denied doing it.	admit, apologise for, decide on, deny, mention, recommend, regret, report, suggest
verb + object + preposition + -ing form 'You forged the cheques, didn't you?' → They accused me of forging the cheques.	accuse sb of, blame sb for, congratulate sb on, thank sb for

(Note: sb = somebody)

Report each of these statements, using an appropriate verb from the box.

accuse apologise blame consider encourage ~~reassure~~ recommend
refuse regret remind suggest warn volunteer

- 0 My wife: 'Don't worry about the arrangements for the reception. They're all under control.'
..... *My wife reassured me that the arrangements for the reception were all under control.*
- 1 Geraldine: 'I will not take part in the new play.'
.....
- 2 My best friend: 'Don't you ever discuss my problems behind my back again!'
.....
- 3 Pete: 'You should think about going to the new Thai restaurant. It's excellent.'
.....
- 4 The departmental manager: 'It was your fault that we lost the Siemens contract.'
.....
- 5 The disc jockey: 'Oasis were definitely the best band of the nineties.'
.....
- 6 The fan: 'I'm terribly sorry about confusing you with George Michael.'
.....
- 7 The police officer: 'We believe that you have been making obscene phone calls to this office.'
.....
- 8 My friends: 'Come on - you can do the Swimathon with us. You're just as good as we are.'
.....
- 9 Mike's brother: 'I don't mind organising the collection for Mike and Sarah's wedding.'
.....
- 10 The team manager: 'I feel terrible now about contradicting Julie in front of her whole team.'
.....
- 11 The director: 'Let's try this scene a different way, shall we?'
.....
- 12 My mother: 'You had your tonsils taken out when you were about nine, remember?'
.....

6 9.1-9.4

Read the article at the top of the next page and then decide which word or phrase below best fits each space. Circle the letter you choose for each option. The exercise begins with an example (0).

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 0 A answer | <input checked="" type="radio"/> B to answer | C that answer |
| 1 A did they spend | B they did spend | C they spent |
| 2 A whether | B what | C if or not |
| 3 A had increased | B was increased | C have increased |
| 4 A they still spending | B 'I still spend ... | C they still spent |
| 5 A changed | B had changed | C has changed |
| 6 A increased | B had increased | C increases |
| 7 A tells | B says us | C tells us |
| 8 A takes | B had taken | C take |
| 9 A or not | B could we get | C we could get |
| 10 A is turning | B was turning | C had turned |