

INTRODUCTORY VERBS IN REPORTED SPEECH			INTRODUCTORY VERBS IN REPORTED SPEECH		
	VERB	REPORTED SPEECH		VERB	REPORTED SPEECH
VERB + TO + INFINITIVE	Agree	He agreed to cook for me.	VERB + "ING" FORM	Admit (to)	He admitted (to) stealing/having stolen her money.
	Offer	He offered to carry her baby.		Accuse somebody of	She accused me of breaking the cup.
	Refuse	She refused to buy me a car.		Apologize for	He apologized for shouting/having shouted at me.
	Demand	He demanded to be told the truth.		Complain to s.one of	He demanded to be told the truth.
	Threaten	He threatened to punish me if I didn't behave myself.		Deny	He denied murdering/having murdered his wife.
	Promise	He promised to marry her when he returned.		Insist on	She insisted on me/my wearing warm clothes.
	Claim	He claimed to have heard her say that.		Suggest	She suggested going to the theatre.
VERB + INDIRECT OBJECT	Advise	He advised me to take a coat.	VERB + THAT + CLAUSE	Complain	She complained that I was always late.
	Allow	He allowed me to park over there.		Deny	She denied that she had flown in an aeroplane.
	Beg	She begged me to call the police.		Explain	He explained that it was an easy recipe to follow.
	Command	He commanded them to drop their weapons.		Exclaim/remark	She exclaimed/remarked that he was a beautiful baby.
	Encourage	He encouraged me to phone her.		Promise	She promised that she would call me.
	Forbid	My doctor forbade me to eat sweets.		Boast	He boasted that he was a brilliant dentist.

Reporting Verbs: Ultimate List and Useful Examples

What are reporting verbs in English? Here you will find a list of reporting verbs used in indirect speech, important grammar rules, and useful examples.

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What is a Reporting Verb?

Direct speech is a form of speech where the speaker's words are reported exactly as they were said. For example, 'she said that she was watching TV' is an example of direct speech.



We use the **reported speech** when we want to tell someone what another person said without using his/her exact words, adapting them to the new circumstances in which they are repeated.

A reported speech sentence has two parts:

Introductory Clause + **Indirect Clause**.

Example: *He said that they were classmates.* (Introductory clause: *He said that*, Indirect clause: *They were classmates.*)

In the introductory clause, we need a reporting verb. There are about 248 verbs to introduce the reported speech in English.

List of Reporting Verbs (with Examples)

Tell, Say & Ask

The commonest verbs to introduce the reported speech are: ***Tell***, ***Say*** and ***Ask***. Some important aspects about these verbs are that:

Tell

- Can be followed by THAT, but it can be omitted.
- Need an indirect object.

Example: *He told me that she was his wife.*

Say

- Can be followed by THAT, but it can be omitted.
- Can have an indirect object or not. If it has an indirect objects, this must be introduced by the particle "to".

Example:

- *He said that Sarah was working.* (no indirect object)
- *He said to me that Sarah was working.* (with indirect object)

Ask

- Can have an indirect object or not.
- Can be used to report questions.

Example: *She asked (me) where I lived.*



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- Can be used to report imperatives or requests

Example: *She asked (me) to **babysit** for her on Friday.*

In reported speech, we normally use a "that clause", but depending on the reporting verbs used other structures are also possible.

Verb + that + clause

Complain

Example: *She **complained that** I was always late.*

Deny

Example: *She **denied that** she had flown in an aeroplane.*

Explain

Example: *He **explained that** it was an easy recipe to follow.*

Exclaim/remark

Example: *She **exclaimed/remarked that** he was a beautiful baby.*

Promise

Example: *She **promised that** she would call me.*

Boast

Example: *He **boasted that** he was a brilliant dentist.*

Inform somebody

Example: *He **informed me that** I would be called for*

Claim

Example: *He **claimed that** he knew the answer.*

Agree



Example: He **agreed that** it was a beautiful hat.

Suggest

Example: He **suggested that** I (should) take the other road.

Verb + to + infinitive

Agree

Example: He **agreed to cook** for me.

Offer

Example: He **offered to carry** her baby.

Refuse

Example: She **refused to buy** me a car.

Demand

Example: He **demanded to be** told the truth.

Threaten

Example: He **threatened to punish** me if I didn't behave myself.

Promise

Example: He **promised to marry** her when he returned.

Claim

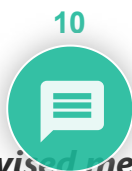
Example: He **claimed to have** heard her say that.

Verb + Indirect Object + to + infinitive

Advise

Example: He **advised me to take** a coat.

Allow



Example: He **allowed me to park** over there.

Beg

Example: She **begged me to call** the police.

Command

Example: He **commanded them to drop** their weapons.

Encourage

Example: He **encouraged me to phone** her.

Forbid

Example: My doctor **forbade me to eat** sweets.

Invite

Example: She **invited me to go** to his house.

Want

Example: He **wanted me to drink** a cup of tea.

Instruct

Example: He **instructed me to insert** coin.

Permit

Example: My parents **permitted me to travel** with

Urge



Example: He **urged me to finish** reading the book.

Order

She **ordered me to get** out of bed.

Remind

Example: She **reminded me to take** out the garbage.

Warn

Example: She **warned me not to go** near the oven.

Verb + “ing” form

Admit (to)

Example: He **admitted (to) stealing/having** stolen her money.

Accuse somebody of

Example: She **accused me of breaking** the cup.

Apologize for

Example: He **apologized for shouting/having** shouted at me.

Boast about/ of

Example: He **boasted of/about being** the cleverest of all.

Complain to somebody of

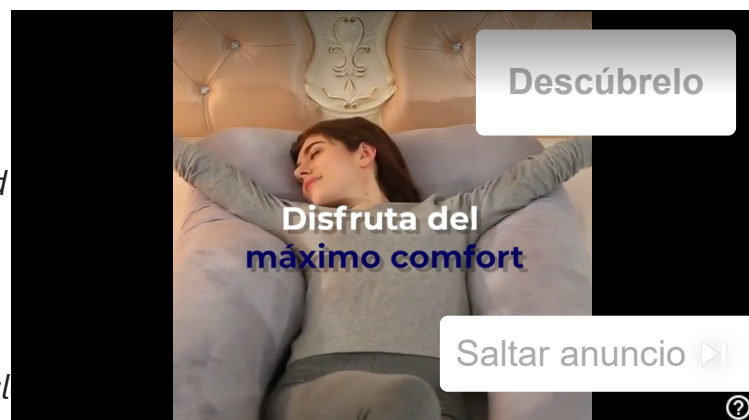
Example: She **complained to me of having** a toothache.

Deny

Example: He **denied murdering/having** murdered

Insist on

Example: She **insisted on** me/my **wearing** warm cl



Suggest

Example: *She **suggested going** to the theatre.*

Verb + how

Explain to somebody

Example: *He **explained to me how** to make polite conversation.*

Wonder

Wonder where/what/why/how + clause

When the subject of the reporting verb is not the same as the subject in the [reported question](#).

Example:

- *She **wondered how** he could reach the top.*
- *He **wondered where** Joan was.*
- *He **wondered why** she was crying.*

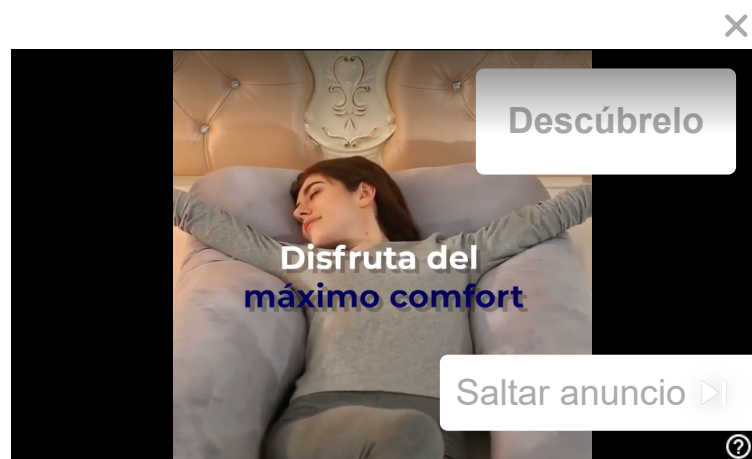
‘Wonder + whether + to-inf or clause’ or ‘Wonder where/what/how + to-inf or clause’

When the subject of the infinitive is the same as the subject of the verb.

Example:

- *He **wondered whether to buy** that blender.*
- *He **wondered where** he had gone wrong in his calculations.*
- *He **wondered what** he should wear.*
- *He **wondered how** to get to the post office.*

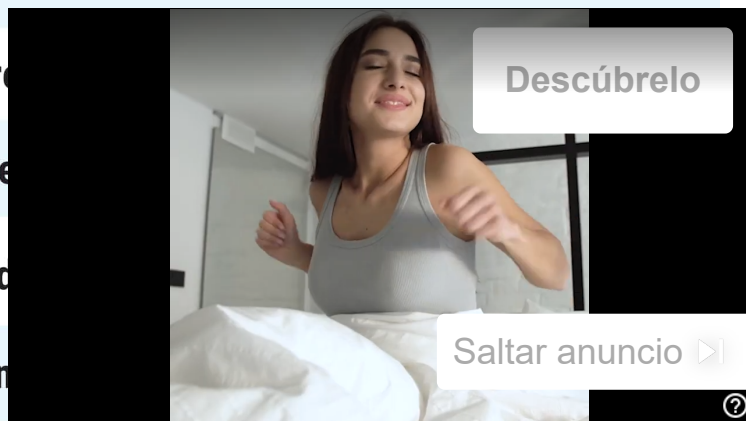
Reporting Verbs | Images





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	Order	She ord
	Remind	She rem



Warn

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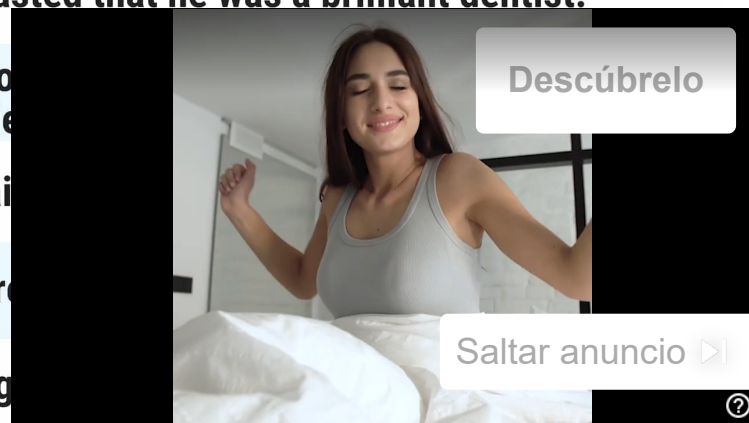
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	Promise	She promised that she would call me.
	Boast	He boasted that he was a brilliant dentist.
	Inform somebody	He informed me that he was going to the interview.
10 Claim	Claim	He claimed that he was a doctor.
	Agree	He agreed that he was wrong.
	Suggest	He suggested that we should go to the park.



The Subjunctive Present Tense

The present subjunctive is used in constructions such as:

They suggested that he come with them.

In English, the present subjunctive functions independently of time. It is formed by taking the **infinitive** form of the verb and removing **to**.

Bruno asked that everyone be on time.

I prefer that he go alone.

She had suggested that they be polite.

It was essential (that) he listen to me.

The present subjunctive is also used in constructions like:

God save the Queen. Please God, keep the Queen safe.

May the schwartz be with you. (Mel Brooks movie)

Far be it from me to criticize your work. I certainly would not criticize your work.

Be that as it may... I accept that is true, however...

Some verbs frequently followed by a verb in the present subjunctive (which often express an order, suggestion, advice, necessity, etc.): **to require, to suggest, to be necessary, to advise, to insist**

Note that the subjunctive is more commonly used in formal constructions.