

# 45 Reporting verbs

In reported speech, “said” can be replaced with a wide variety of verbs that give people more information about how someone said something.

**See also:**  
Present simple 1 Past simple 7  
Types of verbs 49

## 45.1 REPORTING VERBS WITH “THAT”

“Say” and “tell” do not give any information about the speaker’s manner. They can be replaced with other verbs that suggest the speaker’s mood or reason for speaking.



I’m not very good at golf.

Neil **admitted that** he wasn’t very good at golf.

Shows unwillingness on the part of the speaker.



## FURTHER EXAMPLES



Don’t be afraid of the dog. He’s just excited to see you.

They **explained that** the dog was barking because he was excited to see me.



Your house is beautiful. It has a nice lawn, too.

Rohit admired our house, and **added that** it had a nice lawn.



## HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

REPORTING VERB (PAST TENSE)

“THAT”

PAST TENSE

Neil

**admitted**

**that**

he wasn’t very good at golf.

Verb introduces reported speech and gives more information about it.

Verb is followed by “that.”

Reported speech changes tense as usual.

## 45.2 REPORTING VERBS WITH OBJECT AND INFINITIVE

Some reporting verbs are followed by an object and an infinitive. English often uses these verbs to report orders, advice, and instructions.



Remember to buy some milk tonight.

Ellie reminded me to buy some milk tonight.

Reporting verb

Object

Infinitive



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

You've been very naughty! Go to your room.



I just ordered Aaron to go to his room.



Could you please give me a ride to the station?



Sorry I'm late. Lucia asked me to give her a ride to the station.



Come to the party! You'll have a great time!



We encouraged Gareth to come to the party. I hope he turns up.



### HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

REPORTING VERB (PAST TENSE)

OBJECT

INFINITIVE

REST OF SENTENCE

Ellie

reminded

me

to buy

some milk.

The object shows who was being spoken to.

The infinitive usually expresses an order, instruction, or piece of advice.