

## REPORTING VERBS

The grammar structures I've shown with these verbs are not necessarily the only structures possible. I've tried to show the ones I think are the most usual. The meaning of some verbs changes according to the structure used, so I've only included structures that have the same meaning.

**Accuse:** to accuse someone of doing something

"It was you who ate my chocolate, Elvira, wasn't it?"  
He accused Elvira of eating his chocolate.

**Admit:** to admit doing something , to admit that...

"OK, it was me. I ate your chocolate"  
Elvira admitted eating the chocolate.  
Elvira admitted that she had eaten the chocolate.

**Advise :** to advise someone to do something

"Well, if I were you I'd start saving for my retirement."  
He advised me to start saving for my retirement

**agree :** to agree to do something , to agree that.....

"Yes, you're right, I have a terrible problem."  
She agreed to have a terrible problem.  
She agreed that he had a terrible problem.

**Apologise :** to apologise (to someone) for doing something

"I'm sorry I didn't get to the meeting."  
He apologised for not going to the meeting.

**Ask :** to ask someone to do something

"It's very hot in here. Would you mind opening the window?"  
She asked him to open the window.

**Blame :** to blame someone for doing something

"We lost the match because you didn't save that penalty."  
He blamed the goalkeeper for losing the match.

**Complain :** to complain about something

"The electrician said he was coming at ten o'clock so I took time off work and waited in all morning...."  
She complained about the electrician.

**Congratulate :** to congratulate someone on doing something

"Well done! I knew you'd pass your driving test this time."  
She congratulated him on passing his driving test.

**Deny** : to deny doing something , to deny that...

"It most certainly wasn't me that left the front door open."

He denied leaving the front door open.

He denied that he had left the front door open.

**Offer** : to offer to do something for someone

"Those bags must be heavy, John. Shall I take one?"

She offered to carry a bag for him.

**Explain** : to explain why... , to explain that...

"Sorry I'm late. The traffic was bad and then I couldn't find a parking space."

He explained why he was late.

He explained that the traffic was bad.

**Forget** : to forget to do something

"Oh no, I haven't got any money. I didn't go to the bank."

He forgot to go to the bank.

**Invite** : to invite someone to do something

"Would you like to come to our house for dinner on Friday?"

He invited them to come to dinner on Friday.

**Promise** : to promise to do something

"Yes, honest, I'll be there on time. I won't be late."

He promised not to be late.

**Refuse** : to refuse to do something

"Well I'm not washing up. I did it last time."

He refused to do the washing-up.

**Remind** : to remind someone to do something

"Remember you have to go to the bank. You forgot yesterday."

She reminded me to go to the bank.

**Suggest** : to suggest that someone (should) do something , to suggest doing something

"Why don't you go to the dentist if your tooth hurts?" - Hey, why don't we go to the cinema?"

She suggested that he (should) go to the dentist. - She suggested going to the cinema

**threaten** : to threaten to do something

"If you're late again we'll start without you."

They threatened to start without him.

**Warn** : to warn someone about something , to warn someone (not) to do something

"Don't drive too quickly. The streets are very icy."

He warned him about the ice.

He warned him not to drive too quickly.