

Grammatical Patterns after Reporting Verbs

B2-C1 Practice Worksheet

Name: _____	Date: _____	Level: B2-C1
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Focus: Practise the most common grammatical patterns after reporting verbs: verb + to + infinitive, verb + object + to + infinitive, verb + -ing, verb + preposition + -ing, and verb + that-clause.

Useful reminder

advise / tell / encourage / persuade + someone + to do something

admit / deny / suggest / recommend + -ing

apologise for / insist on / accuse someone of / blame someone for + -ing

say / claim / explain / promise / warn + that-clause

Do not use: suggest someone to do something, explain someone something, or say someone that.

Exercise 1: Match the reporting verbs to the correct pattern

Write A, B, C, D or E next to each verb.

Pattern	Structure
A	verb + to + infinitive
B	verb + object + to + infinitive
C	verb + -ing
D	verb + preposition + -ing
E	verb + that-clause

1. promise ____	2. advise ____	3. deny ____
4. apologise for ____	5. claim ____	6. persuade ____
7. suggest ____	8. insist on ____	9. warn ____
10. refuse ____	11. accuse someone of ____	12. explain ____

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences with the correct form

Use the verb in brackets in the correct form. Sometimes you need to add an object or a preposition.

1. She promised _____ me as soon as she arrived. (call)
2. He denied _____ anything about the missing files. (know)
3. The manager advised us _____ the documents carefully. (review)
4. They apologised _____ the meeting without notice. (cancel)
5. She suggested _____ the client before making a final decision. (contact)
6. The teacher reminded the students _____ their essays by Friday. (submit)
7. He insisted _____ the figures himself. (check)
8. They warned us _____ the old bridge during the storm. (cross)
9. The company claimed _____ the safest product on the market. (produce)

10. She admitted _____ a mistake in the report. (make)
11. They accused him _____ confidential information. (share)
12. He explained _____ the delay was caused by heavy traffic. (that / to)

Exercise 3: Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake with a reporting verb pattern. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. She suggested me to apply for the course.
Correct sentence: _____
2. He explained me the new procedure.
Correct sentence: _____
3. They denied to break the rules.
Correct sentence: _____
4. She said me that she was unavailable.
Correct sentence: _____
5. The doctor advised to rest for a few days.
Correct sentence: _____
6. He insisted to speak to the manager.
Correct sentence: _____
7. They accused him for lying about the figures.
Correct sentence: _____
8. My tutor reminded to check my spelling.
Correct sentence: _____

Exercise 4: Cambridge-style sentence transformations

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the word given. Do not change the word given.

1. "You should speak to your teacher," my friend said.
ADVISED
My friend _____ my teacher.
2. "I did not take your notebook," Liam said.
DENIED
Liam _____ my notebook.
3. "Why don't we leave earlier?" Anna said.
SUGGESTED
Anna _____ earlier.
4. "I will send you the details tomorrow," he said.
PROMISED
He _____ the details the next day.

5. "Do not forget the appointment," she said to me.

REMINDED

She _____ the appointment.

6. "I am sorry I arrived late," Mark said.

APOLOGISED

Mark _____ late.

7. "The plan will work," she said.

CLAIMED

She _____ work.

8. "You must leave the building immediately," the officer said to us.

ORDERED

The officer _____ the building immediately.

Exercise 5: Choose the best reporting verb and pattern

Choose one reporting verb from the box and complete each sentence. Use each verb once.

admitted encouraged complained about refused warned congratulated recommended assured
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1. She _____ taking the last slice of cake, although she looked rather guilty.
2. The teacher _____ us to keep practising sentence transformations.
3. The hotel guests _____ waiting for more than an hour at reception.
4. He _____ to answer any more questions without his lawyer present.
5. The guide _____ us not to walk too close to the edge.
6. Everyone _____ Marta on passing her C1 Advanced exam.
7. The doctor _____ drinking more water and getting enough sleep.
8. He _____ me that the documents had already been sent.

Exercise 6: Short writing practice

Write a short paragraph of 80-100 words about advice, promises or warnings you received recently. Use at least five reporting verbs from the lesson.

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1 A; 2 B; 3 C; 4 D; 5 E; 6 B; 7 C; 8 D; 9 B or E; 10 A; 11 D; 12 E.

Exercise 2

1. to call
2. knowing
3. to review
4. for cancelling
5. contacting
6. to submit
7. on checking
8. not to cross
9. to produce / that they produced
10. making / having made
11. of sharing
12. that

Exercise 3

1. She suggested applying for the course. / She suggested that I should apply for the course.
2. He explained the new procedure to me.
3. They denied breaking the rules.
4. She told me that she was unavailable. / She said that she was unavailable.
5. The doctor advised me/him/her/us to rest for a few days.
6. He insisted on speaking to the manager.
7. They accused him of lying about the figures.
8. My tutor reminded me to check my spelling.

Exercise 4

1. My friend advised me to speak to my teacher.
2. Liam denied taking my notebook.
3. Anna suggested leaving earlier. / Anna suggested that we should leave earlier.
4. He promised to send me the details the next day.
5. She reminded me not to forget the appointment.
6. Mark apologised for arriving late.
7. She claimed that the plan would work.
8. The officer ordered us to leave the building immediately.

Exercise 5

- 1.** admitted
- 2.** encouraged
- 3.** complained about
- 4.** refused
- 5.** warned
- 6.** congratulated
- 7.** recommended
- 8.** assured

Exercise 6: Answers will vary. Encourage students to use a variety of reporting verb patterns and check whether each verb is followed by the correct structure.