

71 Suggestions and explanations

In reported speech, you can replace "said" with a wide variety of verbs that give people more information about how someone said something.

 **New language** Reporting verbs with "that"

 **Aa Vocabulary** More reporting verbs

 **New skill** Reporting explanations

71.1 KEY LANGUAGE REPORTING VERBS WITH "THAT"

"Say" and "tell" do not give any information about the speaker's manner. You can replace them 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 reluctance on the part of the speaker.

Reporting verbs with "that" do not take an object.



71.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES REPORTING VERBS WITH "THAT"



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.

71.3 HOW TO FORM SENTENCES USING REPORTING VERBS WITH "THAT"

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.

Aa**71.4** MATCH THE DEFINITIONS TO THE REPORTING VERBS

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Had the same opinion as someone.

Gave reasons to support an idea.

Said something extra.

Said that something is true without being happy about it.

Said something that is difficult to believe.

He said he liked his new job, and **added** that his colleagues were friendly.

They said the weather was good. I **agreed** that it was beautiful.

I **admitted** that I hadn't worked hard enough.

She **claimed** that she never watched TV, but I don't believe her.

My manager **argued** that we had to cut our costs because profits were down.

**71.5** REWRITE THE SENTENCES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

They explained me I was wrong.

They explained that I was wrong.

- 1 She agreed that his CV is excellent.

3 We added the plan would save them money.

- 2 He admit that crime was a big problem.

4 She argued me that their office was too small.

5 He claimed us he could fly a helicopter.

**71.6** LISTEN TO THE AUDIO, THEN MARK THE CORRECT ORDER OF THE SUMMARY SENTENCES

Mr. Kelly talks to his personal trainer about his general health and fitness.

- A The personal trainer claimed that his diet and exercise plan would help Mr. Kelly live longer.
- B Mr. Kelly admitted that his health and fitness were a real problem.
- C Mr. Kelly agreed that he should try the personal trainer's plan.
- D The personal trainer added that his healthy recipes were really delicious.
- E The personal trainer explained that the diet would help Mr. Kelly lose weight.



71.7 READ THE REPORT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

The director admitted that profits were down.

True False Not given

1 She explained that the products were low quality.

True False Not given

2 She added that they were selling in new markets.

True False Not given

3 She argued that advertising should double.

True False Not given

4 She claimed that sales would increase every year.

True False Not given

NOTES FOR ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING

Noriko Hayashi, Sales Director

- Profits are up again this year by 15 percent, our third annual increase.
- This is because all our products are cheaper to make and better quality since we invested in new machinery.
- We are also now currently selling our products in new markets that have great potential for expansion.
- If we double our advertising efforts, we can increase our sales by 35 percent over two years.



71.8 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD AS REPORTED SPEECH, FILLING IN THE GAPS AND USING THE VERB IN BRACKETS

You might not believe me, but I can speak 20 different languages. (claim)

He claimed that he could speak 20 different languages.



1 I don't exercise as regularly as I should. I need to work out more often. (admit)

She admits that she needs to work out more often.



2 I have to leave work early today because I have a doctor's appointment. (explain)

He explains that he has to leave work early for a doctor's appointment.



3 We have four children, and we also have a dog and two cats. (add)

She adds that they have a dog and two cats.



4 You're right. Mr. Brady is a very important client, and we should meet him again. (agree)

He agrees that Mr. Brady is a very important client.



71.9 ▲ COMMON MISTAKES REPORTED SPEECH WITH "SUGGEST"

"Suggest" is different from other reporting verbs. It is still followed by "that," but the part of the sentence that reports the direct speech uses the infinitive without "to."



I don't feel like cooking. Should we **order** a pizza?



"Suggest" is followed by the infinitive without "to."

Ryan **suggested** that we **order** a pizza.

Ryan **suggested** that we **ordered** a pizza.

This is wrong.



71.10 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE



He **admitted** / **suggested** that he had stolen a lot of money.



They said the party was fun, and **suggested** / **added** that the band was fantastic.



She **argued** / **suggested** that they go to the beach this weekend.



She **suggested** / **explained** that she had to go home because she was feeling sick.



She **agreed** / **claimed** that she was once a famous singer.



You said her dress was beautiful. I **agreed** / **suggested** that it was very pretty.



He **suggested** / **added** that I start cycling to work because cars cause pollution.



71 ✓ CHECKLIST

Reporting verbs with "that"

More reporting verbs

Reporting explanations