Module: Grammar

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Level: L2

**3. Reporting Verbs:**

a. Reporting Verbs with that-clauses.

Some reporting verbs are followed by that- clauses in indirect speech and the introduction of an object (hearer) after the reporting verb depends on which verb is used.

1. Reporting verbs such as tell, assure, convince, inform, notify, persuade, remind and warn, necessitate the inclusion of an object.

• ‘They will leave early.’ He told me that they would leave early.(He told that they...)

• ‘You should not play with wire.’ He wanted her that she shouldn’t play with wire.

• ‘I changed my address’ I notified the bank that I had changed my address.

• ‘I’ll come back early’ I assured my mother that I would come back early

(I assured that I……)

\* We use tell without an object only with the expressions tell the truth, tell a lie, tell a story, tell the time, tell you so.

2. Reporting verbs such as say, admit, confess, mention, propose, report, announce, complain, explained, indicate, suggest and recommend can be followed by an object but proceeded by to (to + object).

- ‘I’ve done my job.’ He said (to us) that he had done his job.

- ‘I’m guilty.’ He confessed (to me) that he was guilty.

3. Reporting verbs such as agree, disagree, argue, check and confirm can be followed by an object but proceeded by with (with + object).

- He disagreed (with me) that you were wrong.

- She checked (with me) that the machine was not defective.

4. With some reporting verbs such as expect, believe, feel, intend, plan, think, suppose, want, to report a negative sentence, the reporting verb is made negative.

- ‘I expect she won’t tell the truth.’/ ‘I don’t expect she will tell the truth.’

The judge didn’t expect her to tell the truth.

-‘He won’t come on time.’ She didn’t think he will come on time.

(Rather than She thought he wouldn’t come on time)

b. Reporting Verbs with Infinitives and Gerunds.

1. Reporting verbs such as ask, invite, encourage, urge, order, expect, remind and warn are used with objects followed by infinitives. (object + to infinitive) .

- ‘You can go with me?’ He invited me to go with him.

- ‘Don’t touch that wire.’ He warned us not to touch that wire.

2. Reporting verbs such as offer, apply, decide, decline, demand, refuse and volunteer do not require an object before the infinitive.

- ‘I’ll help you.’ He volunteered to help us.

- ‘I don’t want to quit.’ He refused to quit.

- ‘I won’t go.’ He decided not to go.

3. Reporting verbs such as promise, agree, claim, hope, propose, threaten, vow, think, acknowledge, expect, assume, declare and report can be followed by an infinitive or a that-clause.

- ‘We’ll call you.’ They promised to call me.

They promised that they would call me.

-‘Shall we rewrite it?’ He proposed to rewrite it.

He proposed that we should rewrite it.

4. Reporting verbs such as deny, suggest, admit, mention, report, propose and recommend can be followed by a gerund or a that-clause.

- ‘You should leave early.’ He recommended leaving early.

He recommended that we should leave

early.

-‘I didn’t take it.’ He denied taking it.

He denied that he had taken it.

-‘Shall we do the work again.’ She proposed doing the work again.

She proposed that we should do the

Work again.

-‘No, I’ll pay for the meal.’ He insisted on paying for the meal.

c. Reporting Verbs in Summary Reports.

1. In summary reports we summarize what was said using some reporting verbs such as confess, apologize, and threaten. The verbs speak, talk and thank are used only in summary reports (not in direct and indirect speech).

- ‘Don’t think to escape or I call the police.’ He threatened us.

- ‘Excuse me for what I did.’ He apologised.

- ‘What I said was true.’ He confessed.

- He said, ‘I’ve a problem.’ He talked to me about the problem.

- She said, ‘Thank you.’ She thanked me.

- She spoke briefly to reporters.

2. In summary report we use some verbs with about such as boast, lie, complain, inquire, joke, protest, speak and write.

- He complained about his living conditions.

- She inquired about the time of leaving.

- He joked about my new clothes.

- He boasted about his win.