

## REPORTED SPEECH

### ORDERS, REQUESTS, SUGGESTIONS

1. When we want to report an **order or request**, we can use a verb like *'tell'* with a **to-clause**.

Examples:

*He told me to go away.*

The pattern is **verb + indirect object + to-clause**.  
(The indirect object is the person spoken to.)

Other verbs used to report orders and requests in this way are: **command, order, warn, ask, advise, invite, beg, teach, forbid**.

Examples:

a. The doctor said to me, "Stop smoking!". →  
The doctor **told me to stop smoking**.

b. "Get out of the car!" said the policeman. →  
The policeman **ordered him to get out of the car**.

c. "Could you please be quiet," she said. →  
She **asked me to be quiet**.

d. The man with the gun said to us, "Don't move!" →  
The man with the gun **warned us not to move**.

(See also section on [Verbs followed by infinitive](#) and [Verbs followed by gerund](#))

2. **Requests for objects** are reported using the pattern **ask + for + object**: Examples:

a. "Can I have an apple?", she asked. → She **asked for an apple**.

b. "Can I have the newspaper, please?" →  
He **asked for the newspaper**.

c. "May I have a glass of water?" he said. →  
He **asked for a glass of water**.

d. "Sugar, please." →

She **asked for the sugar**.

e. "Could I have three kilos of onions?" →  
He **asked for three kilos of onions**.

3. **Suggestions** are usually reported with a *that-clause*. *'That'* and *'should'* are optional in these clauses:

She said: "Why don't you get a mechanic to look at the car?" → She suggested that I should get a mechanic to look at the car. **OR** She suggested I get a mechanic to look at the car.

Other reporting verbs used in this way are: **insist, recommend, demand, request, propose**.

Examples:

a. "It would be a good idea to see the dentist", said my mother. → My mother **suggested I see** the dentist.

b. The dentist said, "I think you should use a different toothbrush". → The dentist **recommended**

**that I should use** a different toothbrush.

c. My manager said, "I think we should examine the budget carefully at this meeting." → My manager **proposed that we examine** the budget carefully at the meeting.

d. "Why don't you sleep overnight at my house?" she said. → She suggested **that I sleep** overnight at her house.

**Notes:**

*Suggest* can also be followed by a gerund: I *suggested* postponing the visit to the dentist.