

## 14<sup>th</sup> November

### OET Writing – Reporting Verbs

#### Starter

How can we report this sentence...

“I’ll help you with your homework,” said James

- Using reported speech  
James said that he would help me with my homework.
- Using the verb ‘offer’  
James offered to help me with my homework.

#### ‘Offer’ can be used as a reporting verb

- Reporting verbs allow us to report what someone says without using reported speech
- Using reporting verbs is often more concise and more natural than reported speech
- Using reporting verbs requires a good knowledge of verb patterns

There are five main patterns – let’s look at them one by one...

**We use the verbs:**

*agree / refuse / threaten / offer / promise / decide*

**followed by the infinitive:**

“I’ll help you with your homework,” said James

James said (that) he would help me with my homework

James **offered** to help me with my homework

**We use the verbs:**

*advise / ask / convince / tell / encourage / invite / persuade / remind / warn*

**followed by an object + infinitive:**

“Don’t forget to buy milk,” said my housemate

My housemate told me not to forget to buy milk

My housemate **reminded** me to buy milk

**We use the verbs:**

*suggest / admit / deny / recommend / regret / report*

**followed by the gerund:**

“You should eat more fruit,” said the doctor

The doctor said (that) I should eat more fruit

The doctor **suggested** eating more fruit (to me)

**We use the verbs:**

*apologise (to somebody) for / insist on / accuse somebody of / blame somebody for*

**followed by a preposition + gerund:**

“I’m really sorry I’m late,” said the student

The student said (that) he was sorry that he was late

The student **apologised** (to the teacher) for being late

**We can also use the verbs:**

*explain / admit / advise (+ object) / decide / remind (+ object) / warn (+ object) / deny / insist / recommend / suggest / state / mention / report / reveal / inform (+ object)*

**followed by that + reported speech clause:**

“I lost my wallet and couldn’t find it,” said Paul

Paul said (that) he had lost his wallet and couldn’t find it

Paul **explained** that he had lost his wallet and couldn’t find it

## Practice:

Complete with the gerund or infinitive of the verb in brackets

1. Jamie insisted on **paying** for the meal. (pay)
2. Lauren has agreed **to work** late next week. (work)
3. I warned Jane **not to walk** through the park at night. (not walk)
4. The man admitted **stealing** the woman's handbag. (steal)
5. The doctor advised Lily **to give up** drinking coffee. (give up)
6. The boss persuaded Megan **not to leave** the company. (not leave)
7. Freya accused me of **trying** to steal her boyfriend. (try)
8. I apologized to Evie for **not remembering** her birthday. (not remember)
9. Did you manage to convince your parents **to come** tonight instead of tomorrow? (come)
10. My neighbour denies **damaged** my car, but I'm sure it was him. (damage)