



Presentation

Patterns

To report statements, we use *say* and *tell*. With *tell*, we always use an object before the reported speech. The object is often a pronoun.

'You're fired.' → The boss **told her** (that) she was fired.

With *say*, we never use an object before the reported speech.

'She's feeling ill' → She **said that** she was feeling ill. (not She said ~~me~~ that she...)

We use *ask*, *tell*, *remind*, *invite* with an object + (not) to + infinitive to report speech and thoughts. The object is usually a person:

'Can you take a message?' → She **asked me** to take a message.

'Don't wait for me.' → He **told us** not to wait for him.

'Remember to call your boss back, Jim.' → She **reminded Jim** to call his boss back.

Do not use an object with *promise* and *offer* + to + infinitive.

'I won't be late again.' → He **promised not to be** late again.

'Would you like me to book your hotel?' → He **offered to book her** hotel.

We can also use *promise* + (that) + clause. He **promised that he wouldn't be late again**.

Reporting thoughts

Use the verbs *realize*, *think* and *know* to report thoughts. They are followed by *that* + subject + verb. We sometimes leave out *that* after these verbs, especially in informal, spoken contexts.

I **realized** (that) she had lied.

She **thought** (that) it looked like someone she knew.

He **knew** (that) she wasn't ill.

We use the verb *wonder* to say 'ask yourself'. It is followed by *if/whether* or a question word.

'Has Julia come to work yet?' → He **wondered if** Julia had come to work yet. (or He **wondered whether** ...)

'Where can I leave a message for her?' → I **wondered where** I could leave a message for her.

Exercises

1 Complete the sentences with *said* or *told*.

- 1 She she was leaving.
- 2 My teacher me to do it again.
- 3 My teacher something to me, but I couldn't hear.
- 4 Who they didn't understand?
- 5 She 'yes' to him, so they're getting married in the summer.
- 6 Who him the answer?

2 Each sentence has one mistake. Correct it. Note that one sentence has incorrect punctuation.

- 1 The waiter ~~told~~ said, 'He was in here earlier but he's gone now.'
- 2 He asked me for my number?
- 3 Everyone says you give a great performance last night.
- 4 He said me to talk to you about my complaint.
- 5 My manager asked her when she plans to take her holiday.
- 6 She told to me that something was wrong.
- 7 My father reminded me buy some pasta on my way home.
- 8 They invited that us to come to their party.
- 9 He wondered she'd left already.
- 10 The shop assistant offered me to replace the faulty item.

3 Match the reporting verbs to the sentences. Then rewrite the sentences as reported speech.

remind	invite	promise	offer	think	wonder	realize
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- 1 'Remember to buy some more vegetables.'
He reminded me to buy some more vegetables.
- 2 'I'll give you the money back.'
My friend
- 3 'She looks like someone I've met before.'
I
- 4 'Would you like to come to my party.'
She
- 5 'What has she bought me for my birthday?'
I
- 6 'Can I get you a cup of tea?'
My aunt
- 7 'I've seen that person before.'
Suddenly, I