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Basics. Reporting Verbs: Gerunds, Infinitives, and That-Clauses

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | Clause | Gerund | Indirect speech | Infinitive | Negation | Object | Past tense | Verb | Collocations

1. Choose the best verbs to complete the intergalactic incident report about a clumsy alien trying to fit in on Earth.

The alien _____ for accidentally vaporizing the mayor's car.
He _____ not to use his laser eyes on Earth again.
The police _____ him that parking his spaceship on the sidewalk was strictly illegal.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
- **A)** suggested
- **B)** apologized
- **C)** promised

Blank 2
- **A)** warned
- **B)** apologized
- **C)** promised

Blank 3
- **A)** suggested
- **B)** warned
- **C)** apologized

2. Help the local sheriff document a rather unusual witness statement about a UFO sighting.

Select ALL the reporting verbs that correctly complete the sentence.

The frantic farmer _____ that a glowing saucer had landed in his cornfield.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** claimed
- **B)** explained
- **C)** insisted
- **D)** told
- **E)** asked

3. Help the exhausted camper complete their diary entry about a disastrous trip by choosing the correct reporting verbs.

When our tent collapsed in the pouring rain, Leo _____ to fix it himself.
However, Mia _____ waiting in the car until the storm passed.
In the end, the park ranger _____ us to pack up and go home.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
- **A)** suggested
- **B)** offered
- **C)** advised

Blank 2
- **A)** told
- **B)** suggested
- **C)** asked

Blank 3

- **A)** said
- **B)** suggested
- **C)** advised

4. Choose the correct phrase to describe the stubborn cat's dramatic behavior.

Even though we offered him a bowl of premium tuna, Mr. Whiskers refused _____ down from the top of the refrigerator.

Select one.

- **A)** coming
- **B)** to come
- **C)** came
- **D)** come

5. Complete this text message about a fierce roommate dispute over the last slice of pepperoni pizza.

Select ALL the reporting verbs that grammatically fit the sentence.

When confronted about the missing pizza, Dave _____ eating the last slice.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** admitted
- **B)** denied
- **C)** refused
- **D)** promised
- **E)** offered

6. Complete the museum tour guide's very important safety instruction.

The nervous tour guide warned the school children _____ the priceless dinosaur bones.

Select one.

- **A)** not to touch
- **B)** to not touching
- **C)** don't touch
- **D)** not touching

7. Help the gym manager complete his incident report about a personal trainer's interaction with a very unmotivated client.

Select ALL the reporting verbs that correctly fit the sentence structure.

The exhausted trainer _____ the client to actually lift the weights, not just stare at them.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** told
- **B)** encouraged
- **C)** advised
- **D)** suggested
- **E)** said

8. Help resolve this classic roommate dispute by choosing the correct reporting verbs to complete the story.

My roommate _____ making a weekly cleaning schedule so the apartment would stay tidy. She _____ to wash the dishes every evening after dinner. However, she _____ me to take out the trash and do all the vacuuming!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** offered
- **B)** suggested
- **C)** told

Blank 2

- **A)** suggested
- **B)** promised
- **C)** invited

Blank 3

- **A)** explained
- **B)** said
- **C)** told

9. Complete the teenager's text message to their best friend about a chaotic family dinner. Select the correct option for each blank.

You won't believe what happened! Mom _____ us that she had accidentally shrunk Dad's favorite sweater in the wash.
Dad _____ her if she was joking.
Then, my little brother _____ that the dog was eating the roast beef!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** said
- **B)** told
- **C)** asked

Blank 2

- **A)** told
- **B)** asked
- **C)** said

Blank 3

- **A)** told
- **B)** asked
- **C)** said

10. Complete the confused farmer's interview with the local news by choosing the correct reporting verb for each gap.

The friendly aliens _____ me if I wanted a quick tour of their glowing spaceship. I _____ that I was much too busy milking the cows right now. Before they flew away, their leader _____ me to keep the visit a secret from the neighbors.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** explained
- **B)** asked
- **C)** warned

Blank 2

- **A)** told
- **B)** invited
- **C)** said

Blank 3

- **A)** said
- **B)** wondered
- **C)** told

11. Help the hungry student complete their diary entry about a culinary crime.

When confronted about the missing pepperoni slice, my roommate Dave completely denied _____ it.

Select one.

- **A)** to eat
- **B)** eating
- **C)** ate
- **D)** eat

12. Read the restaurant review and choose the correct reporting verbs to complete the customer's story about a very clumsy waiter.

First, the waiter _____ for spilling hot tomato soup all over my favorite shirt. He quickly _____ to bring me a free slice of chocolate cake to make up for the mess. However, the manager later _____ that the poor guy was actually on his very first day of work.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) denied
B) apologized
C) offered

Blank 2

A) suggested
B) offered
C) admitted

Blank 3

A) refused
B) apologized
C) admitted