

A Verb + (object) + to-infinitive clause

When we report offers, suggestions, orders, intentions, promises, requests, etc. we can follow some verbs in the *reporting clause* (see Unit 33) with –

★ a **to-infinitive clause**

- 'The theatre will be built next to the town hall.' → They **propose to build** the theatre next to the town hall. (*not* They propose them to build ...)

Also: agree, demand, guarantee, offer, promise, swear, threaten, volunteer

★ an **object + to-infinitive clause**

- 'You should take the job, Fran.' → She **encouraged Fran to take** the job.

Also: advise, ask, call on, command, instruct, invite, order, persuade, recommend, remind, request, urge, warn, tell

The object usually refers to the person who the offer, suggestion, etc. is made to; that is, the person who performs the action in the reported clause.

Compare the use of **ask** with and without an object before a **to-infinitive clause**:

- We **asked to leave** our bags outside the exam room. (= this is something we wanted) *and*
 They **asked us to leave** our bags outside the exam room. (= this is something they wanted)

B Verb + that-clause or verb + to-infinitive clause

After some verbs we can use a **that-clause** instead of a **to-infinitive clause**:

- He **promised to arrive** on time. *or*
 He **promised that** he would arrive on time.

Also: agree, demand, expect, guarantee, hope, propose, request, vow

With a **that-clause** the person promising, etc. and the person referred to in the *reported clause* may be different:

- He **promised that** he wouldn't be late. ('He ...' and '... he ...' may refer to different people)

C After the verbs insist, order, say and suggest we use a that-clause but not a to-infinitive clause:

- There were cheers when he **suggested that** we went home early. (*not* ... suggested to go ...)

Advise and **order** can be used with an **object + to-infinitive clause** (see A) or a **that-clause**:

- I **advised that** she should accept. (*or* I **advised her to accept**; *but not* I advised to accept ...)

D Verb + to-infinitive clause (not verb + that-clause)

After some verbs we use a **to-infinitive clause** but not a **that-clause**:

- Carolyn **intends to return** to Dublin after a year in Canada.
 (*not* Carolyn intends that she should return ...)

Also: long, offer, refuse, volunteer, want

E When we report a suggestion, either what the person reported might do themselves, or what someone else might do, we can use a reporting clause with advise, propose, recommend or suggest followed by an -ing clause rather than a that-clause:

- The lecturer **recommended reading** a number of books before the exam. (*or* ...
recommended that the students should read a number of books before the exam.)

Exercises

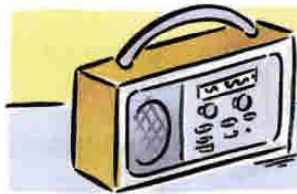
36.1 Report each sentence using a verb from the box and a **to-infinitive clause**. Use each verb once only. If necessary, add an appropriate object after the verb. **A**

~~advise~~ agree ask call on expect hope order urge vow

- 1 'If I were you, I'd read the exam questions very carefully.' →
He advised us to read the exam questions very carefully.
- 2 'Okay, I'll collect Declan from school.' → He ...
- 3 'Be quiet!' → He ...
- 4 'Please stay for a few more days.' → He ...
- 5 'I will fight the ban on smoking in public places.' → He ...
- 6 'I imagine I'll see Olivia at the party.' → He ...
- 7 'Can you lend me ten pounds?' → He ...
- 8 'The government should do more to help the homeless.' → He ...
- 9 'If I leave early, I'll avoid the heavy traffic.' → He ...

36.2 Replace any incorrect verbs with ones from the boxes. (It may not be necessary to use all the boxed verbs.) **B, C & D**

expected promised refused said



In a major speech today, the Health Minister (1) *suggested* to improve the country's health care. She (2) *guaranteed* to reduce waiting times for operations, and (3) *intended* that this could be done without raising taxes. She said that she (4) *insisted* to see significant improvements within a year.

hoped ordered proposed volunteered

The President of Guwandi has (5) *demande*d Narian troops to withdraw from the border area between the two countries, and said that he (6) *wanted* that the Narian president would act now to prevent war. In a separate development, the UN Secretary General has (7) *agreed* to meet the leaders of both countries and has (8) *offere*d that a peace conference should be held in New York early next week.



36.3 Complete the sentences in any appropriate way using a clause beginning with the **-ing form of a verb**. **E**

- 1 To avoid the road works, police have advised *leaving the motorway at Junction 3* .
- 2 To encourage people to use public transport the council proposed
- 3 Ricardo said the play was very entertaining and he recommended
- 4 To find my way around London, Reza suggested
- 5 I'd been feeling unwell for a few days and my mother advised
- 6 The capital urgently needs a new airport, and the government proposes
- 7 I've been putting on weight and my doctor has recommended
- 8 It was a lovely morning and Nina suggested

Can any of these sentences be rewritten with a **to-infinitive clause** without an object?