

Reporting offers, suggestions, orders, intentions, etc.

A Verb + object + to-infinitive clause

When we report offers, orders, intentions, promises, requests, etc., we can use a *to-infinitive* clause after the *reporting clause*. Some verbs are followed by an **object + to-infinitive clause**. The object usually refers to the person who the offer, etc., is made to:

- 'You should take the job, Frank.' → She **encouraged Frank** to take the job.
- 'It must be a peaceful demonstration.' → Dr Barker **called on the crowds** to demonstrate peacefully.

Other verbs like this include **advise, ask, command, compel, expect, instruct, invite, order, persuade, recommend, remind, request, tell, urge, warn**.

B Verb + to-infinitive clause

Some verbs cannot be followed by an object before a *to-infinitive* clause:

- 'I'll take you to town.' → She **offered to take** me to town. (*not* She offered me to take...)
- '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...)

Other verbs like this include **agree, demand, guarantee, hope, promise, swear, threaten, volunteer, vow**.

- Ask is used without an object when we ask someone's permission to allow us to do something:
- I **asked to see** his identification before I let him into the house.

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

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

- He **claimed to be** innocent. *or*
- He **claimed that** he was innocent.

Verbs like this include **agree, demand, expect, guarantee, hope, promise, propose, request, vow**. (See also Unit 48.)

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

After verbs such as **advise, insist, order, say** and **suggest** we use a *that-clause* but not a *to-infinitive* clause. Notice that **advise** and **order** can be used with **object + to-infinitive clause**:

- The team captain **said that** I had to play in goal. (*not* ...said to play...)
- There were cheers when he **suggested that** we went home early. (*not* ...suggested to go...)

However, notice that in informal spoken English we can use **say** with a *to-infinitive* clause:

- Tim **said to put** the box on the table.

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

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

- Carolyn **intends to return** to Dublin after a year in Canada. (*not* ...intends that...)
- The children **wanted to come** with us to the cinema. (*not* ...wanted that...)

Other verbs like this include **long, offer, plan, refuse, volunteer**.

When we report what someone has suggested doing, either what they should do themselves, or what someone else should do, we use a *reporting clause* with **advise, propose, recommend**, or **suggest** followed by an *-ing* clause:

- The government **proposed closing** a number of primary schools.
- The lecturer **recommended reading** a number of books before the exam.