

Different reporting verbs take different grammatical patterns. Some verbs can take more than one pattern.

**Pattern:** verb + noun

**Verbs:**

deny  
say  
suggest  
tell (certain phrases)

**Examples:**

Katie **denied the accusation**.  
When Angie **said the price**, I couldn't believe it!  
I **suggest the blue suit** for the wedding.  
Why don't you **tell that joke** about the merchant banker?

**Pattern:** verb + *that* clause

**Verbs:**

claim  
deny  
say  
state  
suggest

**Examples:**

Katie **claimed (that)** she wasn't a shoplifter.  
Katie **denied (that)** she was a shoplifter.  
Katie **said (that)** she wasn't a shoplifter.  
Katie **stated (that)** she wasn't a shoplifter.  
The police **suggested (that)** Katie empty her pockets.

**Pattern:** verb + *-ing*

**Verbs:**

deny  
suggest

**Examples:**

Katie **denied stealing** the chocolate biscuits.  
The police **suggested checking** the security video.

**Pattern:** verb + full infinitive

**Verbs:**

agree  
claim  
refuse

**Examples:**

Katie **agreed to empty** her pockets.  
Katie **claimed to be** innocent.  
The police **refused to believe** Katie.

**Pattern:** verb + someone + full infinitive

**Verbs:**

ask  
beg  
command  
order  
tell

**Examples:**

The police **asked Katie to empty** her pockets.  
Katie **begged the policewoman to believe** her.  
The judge **commanded Katie to replace** the biscuits.  
The judge **ordered Katie to replace** the biscuits.  
The judge **told Katie never to steal** again.

**Pattern:** verb ( + *to* + someone) + *for* + *-ing*

**Verb:**

apologise

**Example:**

Katie **apologised (to everyone) for causing** so much trouble.

**Pattern:** verb + someone + noun

**Verbs:**

ask  
tell (certain phrases)

**Examples:**

The judge **asked Katie a question**.  
Katie **told the judge the truth**.