

## A

Verb tense in the *reported* clause

Reminder → G1–G7

When the situation described in the *reported* clause (see Unit 32) is in the *past* when we are reporting it, we use a past tense (past simple, past continuous, etc.):

- 'I don't want anything to eat.' → Yusuf **said** that he **didn't want** anything to eat.
- 'I'm leaving!' → Lamar **announced** that she **was leaving**.

When the situation described in the *reported* clause was *already* in the past when it was spoken about originally, we often use the past perfect to report it:

- 'We have found the missing girl.' → Police **said** that they **had found** the missing girl.

However, if it is clear that one event took place before another, then it may not be necessary to indicate this by using the past perfect and we use the past simple instead:

- 'I've sent out the invitations. I did it well before the wedding.' → She **reassured** me that she **sent** out the invitations well before the wedding. (*or... had sent ...*)

## B

When the situation described in the *reported* clause is a *permanent / habitual situation*, or still exists or is relevant at the time we are reporting it, then we use a present tense (or present perfect) if we also use a present tense for the verb in the *reporting* clause:

- Dr Weir **thinks** that he **spends** about five minutes on a typical appointment with a patient.
- US scientists **claim** that they **have developed** a new vaccine against malaria.

Note that the present perfect focuses attention on the *result* of the action, not the action itself.

However, when we use a past tense in the *reporting* clause we can use either a present or past tense (or present perfect or past perfect) in the *reported* clause:

- She **argued** that Carl **is** / **was** the best person for the job.
- They **noted** that the rate of inflation **has** / **had slowed** down.

Choosing a present tense (or present perfect) in the *reported* clause emphasises that the situation being reported still exists or is still relevant when we report it.

If we are not sure that what we are reporting is necessarily true, or a situation may not still exist now, we prefer a *past* rather than a present tense. Compare:

- Yasemin told me that she **has** two houses. (= might suggest that this is true) *and*
- Yasemin told me that she **had** two houses. (= might suggest either that this is perhaps not true, or that she once had two houses but doesn't have two houses now)

## C

Verb tense in the *reporting* clause

To report something said or thought in the past, the verb in the *reporting* clause is often in a *past* tense:

- Just before her wedding, she **revealed** that she had been married before.

When we report current news, opinions, etc. we can use a present tense for the verb in the *reporting* clause. In some cases, either a present or past tense is possible, although we prefer a present tense to emphasise that what was said is true or still relevant when we report it:

- She **says** that she'll have to close the shop unless business improves. (*or ... said ...*)

We often prefer a present rather than a past tense –

☆ to report information that we have been told or heard, but don't know whether it is true:

- I **hear** you're unhappy with your job.

☆ to report what is said by some authority:

- The law **says** that no one under the age of 16 can buy a lottery ticket.

☆ to report what many people say:

- Every teacher I've spoken to **tells** me that standards of spelling are in decline.



## Exercises

**35.1** Report these sentences using the verbs from the box in the reporting clauses and either the past simple or past perfect (or both if possible) in the **that-clause**. **A**

alleged    conceded    ~~denied~~    estimated    recalled    repeated

- 1 'I have never been in love with Oliver.' →  
She denied that she had ever been / was ever in love with Oliver.
- 2 'Markus has stolen jewellery from my house.' → She \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 'I think the vase is around 250 years old.' → She \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 'I've told you once. I've already seen the film.' → She \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 'Well, perhaps you're right. Maybe I did treat Lara unkindly.' → She \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 'I seem to remember that Wilma's great-grandmother was from Spain.' → She \_\_\_\_\_

**35.2** Complete the sentences with a verb chosen from a suitable pair. If both verbs in the pair are possible, write both. **B**

has / had    is / was    looks / looked    solved / have solved  
states / stated    understand / understood

- 1 Engineers hope that they \_\_\_\_\_ the problems with the bridge now that new supports have been built, and they plan to reopen it next week.
- 2 The current law \_\_\_\_\_ that an employee has the right to appeal against dismissal.
- 3 Simon is already a good tennis player, but he accepts that he still \_\_\_\_\_ a lot to learn.
- 4 I \_\_\_\_\_ that you want to buy a second-hand car. Your brother just told me.
- 5 Health officials warn that anyone who \_\_\_\_\_ directly at the sun during an eclipse may put their sight at risk.
- 6 They reassured us that the path \_\_\_\_\_ perfectly safe.

**35.3** Jamie Barnes and Daniel Nokes have been interviewed by the police in connection with a robbery last week. If necessary, correct the tenses in the **that-clauses** in these extracts from the interview reports. If not, write ✓. Suggest possible alternatives. **A-C**

1

When I mentioned to Nokes that he had been seen in a local shop last Monday, he protested that he is at home all day. He swears that he didn't own a blue Ford Focus. He claimed that he had been to the paint factory two weeks ago to look for work. Nokes alleges that he is a good friend of Jamie Barnes. He insisted that he didn't telephone Barnes last Monday morning. When I pointed out to Nokes that a large quantity of paint had been found in his house, he replied that he is storing it for a friend.

2

At the beginning of the interview I reminded Barnes that he is entitled to have a lawyer present. He denied that he knew anyone by the name of Daniel Nokes. Barnes confirmed that he is in the area of the paint factory last Monday, but said that he is visiting his mother. He admitted that he is walking along New Street at around ten. He maintains that he was a very honest person and would never be involved in anything illegal.



**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) *demanded* 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) *offered* 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?



**A**

Some words and phrases (*sentence connectors*) are used to connect one sentence with a previous sentence or sentences. Often (but not always) these go at the beginning of the sentence:

- There was no heating in the building. **As a result**, the workers had to be sent home.

Other words and phrases (*conjunctions*) are used to connect clauses *within* a single sentence:

- While** I was waiting, I read a magazine.
- I stood up **so that** I could see better.

<i>type of connection</i>	<i>sentence connectors</i>	<i>conjunctions</i>
comparing, contrasting, and indicating that a situation (in the main clause) is unexpected	after all, all the same, alternatively, anyway, by contrast, even so, however ( <i>but see C</i> ), in any case, in contrast, instead, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand	although, even though, though, whereas, while, yet
reasons and results	as a consequence, as a result, consequently, for one thing, so; hence, in consequence, therefore, thus ( <i>the last four are rather formal</i> )	as, because, for, in that, since, insofar as, so, so that
adding information	above all, after all, also, besides, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly, what's more; as well, too ( <i>the last two are not used at the beginning of a sentence</i> )	
condition	if not, if so, otherwise	as long as, assuming (that), if, on condition that, provided (that), so long as, supposing (that), unless
time: one event at the same time as another	at that time, at the same time, meanwhile	as, when, whenever, while
time: one event before or after another	after, after that, afterwards, before, before that, earlier, later, previously, soon, subsequently, then	after, as soon as, before, since, until

Note that **after**, **before** and **so** can be both connectors and conjunctions.

We can't use a sentence connector on its own with a comma to connect clauses *within* one sentence (e.g. *not* I expect to be promoted, if not I'll leave).

However, a sentence connector can be used to connect two clauses in one sentence if the clauses are joined with **and**, **but**, **or**, **so**, or a **semi-colon (;)**, **colon (:)**, or **dash (-)**:

- The building was extremely well constructed **and**, **as a result**, difficult to demolish.
- You could fly via Singapore; **however**, this isn't the only way.

**B**

**Even though** is a conjunction used to say that a fact doesn't make the rest of the sentence untrue (see also Unit 82B). It connects ideas *within* a sentence:

- Even though** it was midday, I put on the light.

**Even so** is a sentence connector used to introduce a fact that is surprising in the context of what was just said. It connects ideas *between* sentences:

- It was midday. **Even so**, I put on the light.

**C**

**However** is often used as a sentence connector, but it can also be used –

☆ as an adverb when it is followed by an **adjective**, **adverb**, or **much / many**:

- We just don't have the money to do the work, **however necessary** you think it is.

☆ as a conjunction when it means 'in whatever way':

- However** she held the mirror, she couldn't see the back of her neck.



## Exercises

**87.1** Choose items from (i) and from (ii) to complete these texts in an appropriate way. Note the punctuation at the ends of the sentences and phrases already given. **A & B**

(i)

alternatively  
as long as  
for one thing  
meanwhile  
otherwise  
~~so that~~  
while  
yet

(ii)

~~everybody had their fair share~~  
you could poison them  
his face seemed familiar  
it's too expensive  
the rent was paid on time  
the street was deserted  
the volcano continues to erupt  
we were on holiday

- 1 Mara cut the cake carefully into slices so that everybody had their fair share.
- 2 A small boy was kicking a ball against a wall; .....
- 3 I couldn't remember meeting him before, .....
- 4 A mass evacuation of islanders is taking place. ....
- 5 A: Why don't you like that new French restaurant?  
B: .....
- 6 Ingrid came down with flu .....
- 7 My landlady didn't mind me having parties in my room .....
- 8 One way of getting rid of weeds is to dig them out. ....

**87.2** Underline the correct option. **A-C**

- 1 Your essay is badly organised and full of spelling mistakes. *Though / Nevertheless*, it contains some very interesting ideas.
- 2 To the east the trees were left standing, *while / in contrast* to the west they were cut down.
- 3 I felt guilty about leaving the company *even so / even though* I knew it was the right decision.
- 4 The course taught me a lot about astronomy. *Even though / Even so*, there is still a lot to learn.
- 5 I expected my mother to be happy with the news. *Instead / Although* she started to cry.
- 6 Herbs are usually grown in temperate climates, *whereas / on the other hand* spices are mainly from tropical areas.
- 7 We were very short of money *so / as a consequence* we had to spend the night on a park bench.
- 8 I turned the ignition, but the car wouldn't start. *As / Meanwhile* the lions were getting ever closer.
- 9 She wrote the questions on the whiteboard *while / at the same time* the students copied them into their books.
- 10 *Previously / Before* I went to Australia, I'd never seen a koala.
- 11 I'll have to buy some ladders *unless / if not* I can borrow a pair from Harry.
- 12 I first met Connor in the 1970s. *At that time / When* he had long hair and a beard.

**87.3** Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Begin **however + adjective / adverb / many / much**. **C**

- 1 She is determined to be a successful artist, however difficult it might be to achieve.
- 2 ....., it is difficult to lose weight without cutting down on the amount you eat.
- 3 ....., it is important to spend some time apart.
- 4 Professor Malcolm is always happy to spend time with his students, .....
- 5 ....., it never fails to impress me.
- 6 Some people never seem content, .....



## A

**Across, over**

We can use **across** or **over** to talk about a *position* on the other side of, or *moving* to the other side of a road, bridge, border, river, etc.:

- Antonio lives in the house **across** / **over** *the road* from ours.
- Once she was **across** / **over** *the border*, she knew she would be safe.

We use **over** rather than **across** when we talk about reaching the other side of something that is high, or higher than it is wide. Compare:

- He jumped **over** *the fence* into the garden. *and*
- He jumped **across** *the stream*.

When we are talking about something we think of as a flat surface, or an area such as a country or sea, we prefer **across** rather than **over**:

- He suddenly saw Eva **across** *the room*.
- The programme was broadcast **across** *Canada*.

We prefer **all over** rather than **all across** to mean 'to or in many different parts of an area'. However, we commonly use **across**, or **right across** for emphasis:

- The disease has now spread **all over** the world. (*or ... (right) across* the world.)

## B

**Along, through**

When we talk about following a line of some kind (a road, a river, etc.), we use **along**:

- They walked **along** the footpath until they came to a small bridge.

We use **through** to emphasise that we are talking about movement in a three dimensional space, with things all around, rather than a two dimensional space, a flat surface or area:

- He pushed his way **through** the crowd of people to get to her.

**Through** often suggests movement from one side or end of the space to the other. Compare:

- She walked **through** the forest to get to her grandmother's house. *and*
- She spent a lot of her free time walking **in** the forest.

## C

**Above, over; below, under; beneath, underneath**

We can use either **above** or **over** when we say that one thing is at a higher level than another:

- Above** / **Over** the door was a sign saying, 'Mind your head'.

However, we prefer **above**, when one thing is not directly over the other. Compare:

- They lived in a village in the mountains **above** the lake. (*not directly over*) *and*
- The bird hovered just a few metres **above** / **over** the lake. (*directly over*)

We use **over**, not **above**, when something covers something else and touches it:

- She put a quilt **over** the bed.

and usually when we are talking about horizontal movement at a higher level than something:

- I saw the helicopter fly out **over** the water, near the fishing boat.

**Below** is the opposite of **above**; **under** is the opposite of **over**. The differences in the uses of **below** and **under** are similar to those between **above** and **over** (see above):

- It's hard to believe that there is a railway line **below** / **under** the building. (*at a lower level*)
- Her head was **below** the level of the table so nobody noticed her. (*not directly under*)
- She hid the presents **under** a blanket. (*the blanket covers and touches the presents*)
- Zara ran **under** the bridge. (*horizontal movement at a lower level*)

We can use **underneath** as an alternative to **under** as a preposition of place. **Beneath** is sometimes used as a more formal alternative to **under** or **below**.



## Exercises

**88.1** Complete the sentences with **across** or **over**, whichever is correct or more likely. If both are possible, write **across / over**. **A**

- 1 After I'd finished work I walked ..... the car park to where Mona was waiting.
- 2 They own a house ..... the river in the old town.
- 3 The gate was locked so we had to climb ..... the wall.
- 4 You're not allowed to walk ..... the railway line. You have to use the bridge.
- 5 Julie Wafaei was the first woman to row alone ..... the Atlantic.
- 6 Nuclear waste is transported ..... the country, despite objections from campaigners.
- 7 The traffic was busy on the main road so we walked ..... the pedestrian crossing.
- 8 She leaned out ..... the balcony rail and looked for Omar in the square below.

**88.2** Underline the correct or most appropriate option(s) in each sentence. **A & B**

- 1 It took several minutes to walk *across / over / along / through* the corridor to the exit.
- 2 *Across / Over / Along / Through* the table I could see Oliver looking at his watch.
- 3 He fell *across / over / along / through* the floor into the cellar below.
- 4 I could see Lisa *across / over / along / through* the other side of the river.
- 5 He cycles thousands of miles each year all *across / over / along / through* the country.
- 6 Hotels have been built *across / over / along / through* the beach for about 25 kilometres.

**88.3** Correct the prepositions (**above, over, below, under**) if necessary, or write ✓. **C**

- 1 He slept with his wallet below his pillow.
- 2 He broke his leg just below his knee.
- 3 The town stood at the top of the hill, and stretching into the distance under it were green fields.
- 4 She threw a coat above her shoulders and stepped out into the cold.
- 5 He lived in a first-floor flat above a greengrocer's in Leyton.
- 6 When the police got to the car they found the driver slumped above the steering wheel.
- 7 He always wore a vest below his shirt, even in summer.
- 8 I could hear the plane flying high over the clouds.

**88.4** A number of common idioms include the prepositions in this unit. Match the idioms in italics to their meanings below.

- 1 a: What's wrong?  
b: I'm just feeling rather *under the weather*.
- 2 a: You never arrive on time. You'd be late for your own funeral, you would!  
b: That's a bit *below the belt*, isn't it?
- 3 She already has 18 books on gardening *under her belt* and she is now working on number 19.
- 4 He had never played well for the club and left *under a cloud*.
- 5 She lost her temper and went completely *over the top*, accusing him of cheating.
- 6 They received a bonus in December *over and above* their monthly salary.

- |  |
|--|
| <p>a in addition to<br/> b successfully completed<br/> c ill<br/> d cruel or unfair<br/> e with some people's disapproval<br/> f extreme behaviour; indicating disapproval</p> |
|--|