



Grammar 2A: Reporting Verbs

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Workshop objectives

This workshop will assist you in becoming familiar with:

- The function and correct use of reporting verbs
- Demonstrating attitude toward/of an author
- Modifying reporting verbs
- Grammatically correct forms of reporting verb structures



Reporting verbs are used with:

- quotes
- paraphrases
- summaries



Choosing the 'right' reporting verb depends on:

- what the author is doing
- the author's attitude to the information
- the extent to which you agree with the author
- the way the reporting verb fits together with other words in a sentence (ie grammar)





What the author is doing

ARGUE: verbs concerned with writing or saying

argue, suggest, propose, point out, explain, conclude, claim, state

THINK: verbs concerned with thinking, knowing, understanding

think, believe, assume, feel, hold, hope





What the author is doing

SHOW: verbs concerned with indicating a fact or situation

show, demonstrate, reveal, indicate, confirm, imply

FIND: verbs concerned with the research process

find, discover, observe, establish, identify





Author's attitude

It is possible to indicate whether the author is positive or negative in their attitude to the content of the information.

POSITIVE

accept, advise, affirm, agree, applaud, assert, concur, insist, maintain, note, praise, point out, posit, recommend, remark, stress, subscribe to, suggest, support, think, urge

NEGATIVE or uncertain attack, challenge, disagree, dismiss, dispute, doubt, mistrust, oppose, question, reject, suspect, warn





Author's attitude

The author is very assertive/certain

The author is tentative

The author believes the information is very important

The author believes the information is of lesser importance

The author is offering advice to the reader

argue, challenge, claim, insist, refute, reject

propose, speculate, suggest

contend, emphasise, stress

mention, note, say

recommend, urge, caution, warn





Agreement with author

You can indicate, through a choice of reporting verbs, your <u>own</u> viewpoint:

agreement with author

e.g. show, throw light on

• disagreement with author

e.g. confuse, disregard

• a neutral attitude towards the author

e.g. describe, explain, define



JIS:



You must choose your reporting verbs carefully. The meaning of a reporting verb can change according to the context and the language surrounding it.





Modifying reporting verbs

In order to develop your own argument and emphasise your own voice, you can modify reporting verbs.

You can show strong agreement with the author's line of argument. Peres da Costa (2015) clearly demonstrates that.... Balik and Bayrak (2011) correctly conclude that... Young and Chen (2014) perceptively identify.... Zvangoli (1999) persuasively argues that..

You can show your uncertainty about or disagreement with the author's line of argument. Craig and Blaster (2014) attempt to argue that... Crawford (2015) incorrectly concludes that... Although Webster (2011) might claim that...





Grammar

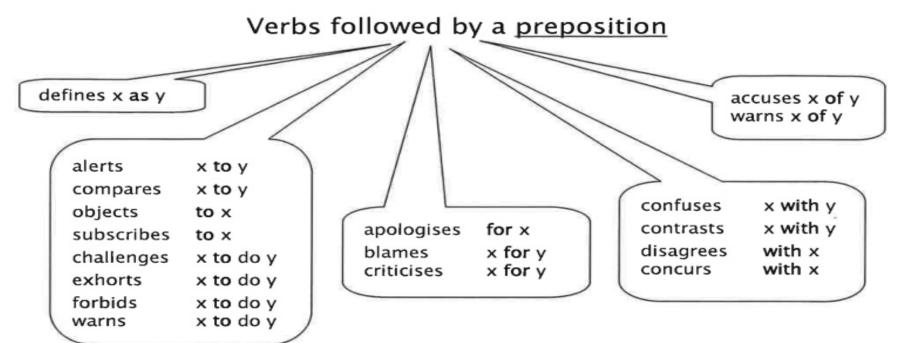
ARGUE, THINK and SHOW verbs are mostly in the present tense.

ARGUE, FIND and SHOW verbs are occasionally in the present perfect tense.

FIND verbs (concerned with the research process) are mostly in the past tense.



Grammar





JIS:

Grammar Verbs followed by a <u>noun</u> or <u>-inq</u> form

analyses, applauds, appraises, assesses, attacks, considers, contradicts, critiques, debates, describes, discards, disclaims, discounts, discusses, dismisses, disregards, evaluates, examines, explores, expresses, extols, forbids, highlights, identifies, ignores, illustrates, investigates, justifies, lists, opposes, outlines, praises, presents, questions, refutes, rejects, restates, scrutinises, studies, supports, underscores, uses, validates, verifies





Verbs followed by 'that'

accepts, acknowledges, adds, admits, advises, advocates, agrees, alerts, alleges, announces, argues, articulates, asserts, assures, believes, boasts, claims, clarifies, comments, complains, concedes, concludes, confirms, feels, finds, forgets, guarantees, guesses, hopes, hypothesises, imagines, implies, indicates, infers informs, insists, justifies, knows, maintains, notes, observes, persuades, points out, posits, postulates, promises, proposes, proves, questions, realises, reasons, reasons, recognises, recommends, remarks, reminds, reports, reveals, shows, speculates, states, stresses, suggests, suspects, tells, theorises, thinks, understands,

urges, warns





Centre for Learning and Professional Development 2010, *Reporting verbs*, University of Adelaide.

Craven, E. n.d., Which reporting verb should I use?, ELSSA Centre, University of Technology, Sydney.

Office of Student Success 2010, Reporting verbs, Australian Catholic University.









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