

English B2 · Reported questions and commands

Upper-intermediate English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The shouting cap comes off

Commands and requests report as verb + person + to-infinitive: the imperative takes off its shouting cap and puts on to.

The command verbs

Verb	The original	The report
tell	"Open the window."	She told me to open the window.
ask	"Could you help me?"	He asked me to help him.
order	"Stand up!"	The teacher ordered us to stand up.
warn	"Don't touch that."	They warned me not to touch it.
advise	"You should sleep."	She advised me to sleep more.

Your turn: the mood

Your turn

"Don't touch that wire!" → They ____ me not to touch it.

- A. told
- B. asked
- C. warned
- D. suggested

Questions, fully grown

direct

"Are you ready?"

"Where have you been?"

reported

She asked if I was ready. — or whether

He asked me where I had been.

Your turn: the grown question

Your turn

"Where have you been?" → He asked me ____.

- A. where have I been
- B. where I had been
- C. where had I been
- D. where I have been

suggest and its special grammar

Ideas report differently

"Let's eat noodles." → She suggested eating noodles.

Formal: She suggested that we eat noodles.

Your turn: the cousin test

Your turn

"Let's review the conditionals." → She ____.

- A. suggested us to review the conditionals
- B. suggested reviewing the conditionals
- C. suggested to review the conditionals
- D. suggested me reviewing the conditionals

The command verbs' licences

tell needs its person

She told to open the window — impossible.

She told me to open it. — the person is part of the machinery.

Say it aloud

"Sit down." → The teacher told us to sit down.
We were already sitting. She had seen the future.

▲
"Could you lend me a pen?" → He asked me to
lend him a pen. The pen economy is booming.

▲
"Don't eat in the lab." → They
warned us not to eat in the lab.

▲
"Let's review the conditionals."
→ She suggested reviewing them.

Check yourself

- She told me to open the window — verb + person + to-infinitive.
- They warned me not to be late — not person before to.
- He asked me where I had been — statement order, stepped back.
- She suggested eating noodles — suggest plus gerund, never person plus to.