



## Reporting Verbs:

# Advanced Reporting Verbs: Subjunctive Patterns, Academic Verbs & Complex Structures

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The chairperson insisted that every board member \_\_\_\_ present for the emergency vote on the proposed merger.  
a) be  
b) is  
c) was  
d) would be
- The consultant suggested that the company \_\_\_\_ its marketing strategy before launching the new product line.  
a) revises  
b) revised  
c) to revise  
d) revise
- The committee recommended that the director \_\_\_\_ a formal apology to the families affected by the data breach.  
a) issues  
b) issue  
c) to issue  
d) issued
- The trade union demanded that management \_\_\_\_ the workers' overtime pay with immediate effect.  
a) restores  
b) to restore  
c) restore  
d) restored
- In her keynote address, the minister proposed that a new regulatory framework \_\_\_\_ to address emerging cyber threats.  
a) is established  
b) was established  
c) establishes  
d) be established
- The health authorities \_\_\_\_ residents to evacuate immediately as the floodwaters continued to rise.  
a) suggested  
b) urged  
c) proposed  
d) insisted
- The auditor accused the finance director \_\_\_\_ deliberately falsifying the quarterly earnings reports.  
a) for  
b) with  
c) of  
d) about
- The inquiry blamed senior executives \_\_\_\_ failing to implement adequate safety protocols at the manufacturing plant.  
a) for  
b) of  
c) with  
d) on
- The school's head teacher discouraged parents \_\_\_\_ putting excessive academic pressure on their children at such a young age.  
a) of  
b) against  
c) for  
d) from





## Answers

1. a) be
2. d) revise
3. b) issue
4. c) restore
5. d) be established
6. b) urged
7. c) of
8. a) for
9. d) from
10. b) against
11. a) assert
12. c) contend
13. d) conceded
14. a) alleged
15. c) acknowledged
16. b) denied
17. c) assured
18. d) adopt
19. a) instructed
20. b) disputed



# Explanations

## 1. “be” (a)

After 'insist that' in formal English, the subjunctive (base form of the verb) is required: 'insist that someone be'. This applies regardless of the tense of the main verb. 'Is' (present indicative) and 'was' (past indicative) are used in informal British English, but the formal/academic standard — and the pattern tested in exams like CAE — requires the subjunctive 'be'.

## 2. “revise” (d)

After 'suggest that + subject', the subjunctive (base verb) is used in formal English: 'suggest that the company revise'. 'To revise' is a common error — 'suggest to do' is incorrect when a that-clause with a subject follows. 'Revises' (present indicative) is informal. Note: 'suggest + -ing' without a subject is also correct ('suggested revising'), but that is a different structure.

## 3. “issue” (b)

After 'recommend that + subject', the subjunctive (base verb) is used: 'recommend that the director issue'. 'To issue' is incorrect in this structure — 'recommend' cannot take 'that + subject + to-infinitive'. 'Issues' (indicative) is acceptable in informal speech but not in formal writing. 'Issued' (past) would incorrectly suggest a completed past action.

## 4. “restore” (c)

After 'demand that + subject', the subjunctive is required in formal English: 'demand that management restore'. This is especially common in legal and industrial relations language. 'To restore' is incorrect after 'demand that + subject'. 'Restores' (indicative) and 'restored' (past) do not follow the formal subjunctive pattern.

## 5. “be established” (d)

'Propose that + subject + subjunctive' requires the base verb, even in the passive: 'propose that a framework be established'. The passive subjunctive uses 'be + past participle'. 'Is established' (present indicative) and 'was established' (past indicative) are informal alternatives. 'Establishes' is active voice and doesn't match the meaning — the framework doesn't establish itself.

## 6. “urged” (b)

'Urge + person + to-infinitive' is the correct pattern for strongly encouraging immediate action. 'Suggested' cannot take 'person + to-infinitive' — \*'suggested residents to evacuate' is grammatically wrong. Similarly, 'proposed' does not take this structure. 'Insisted' requires 'on + -ing' or 'that + clause', not 'person + to-infinitive' — \*'insisted residents to evacuate' is incorrect.

## 7. “of” (c)

'Accuse someone of + -ing' is the only correct preposition pattern with this verb. Compare: 'blame someone for + -ing' (different verb, different preposition), 'charge someone with + -ing' (legal term, uses 'with'). Each reporting verb has its own fixed preposition — mastering these combinations is essential at C1 level.

## 8. “for” (a)

'Blame someone for + -ing' is the correct pattern. Compare with 'accuse someone of' — the prepositions are different even though the meanings are similar. 'Blame someone on something' exists but with a different structure: 'blame the failure on the executives' (blame + thing + on + person). Here, we blame the person for the action.

## 9. “from” (d)

'Discourage someone from + -ing' is the correct pattern. 'Against' is used with 'warn' and 'caution' (warn against doing, caution against doing), but not with 'discourage'. 'Of' is used with 'accuse' (accuse of doing). Each verb has its own preposition — a frequent source of errors even at advanced levels.

## 10. “against” (b)

'Warn someone against + -ing' means to advise someone not to do something because it's dangerous. 'Warn someone about + noun' is also possible for general warnings, but 'against + -ing' specifically warns against an action. Compare: 'discourage from' (different preposition) and 'caution against' (same preposition as warn).

## 11. “assert” (a)

'Assert that' is used in academic writing to present a confident, evidence-based claim. 'Insist' implies persistence or stubbornness, which is inappropriate for introducing research findings in a scholarly paper. 'Demand' implies a request for action, not a factual claim. 'Warn' implies danger, not an academic argument.

## 12. “contend” (c)

'Contend that' means to argue or maintain a position in a debate — it's a formal academic verb for presenting a strong opinion. 'Confess' means to admit guilt, which doesn't fit the context of economic analysis. 'Urge' implies calling for action, not presenting an argument. 'Deny' means to reject a claim, but the economists are making a claim, not rejecting one.

## 13. “conceded” (d)

'Concede that' means to reluctantly admit something, often something negative or unfavourable. The minister is admitting partial failure ('not achieved all objectives') while defending overall progress — a classic concession. 'Alleged' means to claim without proof. 'Asserted' implies confident declaration, not reluctant admission. 'Disputed' means to challenge, which is the opposite of admitting.

## 14. “alleged” (a)

'Is alleged to have done' is a formal passive construction used in news reporting and legal language meaning 'it is claimed, but not yet proven, that someone did something'. 'Maintained' implies persistent personal assertion. 'Acknowledged' means the person admitted it themselves. 'Assured' means to give confidence — all three imply the person's own statement, whereas 'alleged' is a claim made by others.

## 15. “acknowledged” (c)

'Acknowledge that' means to formally accept or admit that something is true, especially after initial reluctance or scrutiny. 'After reviewing the evidence' signals they accepted the truth. 'Alleged' implies claiming something without proof — opposite of accepting evidence. 'Disputed' and 'denied' mean to challenge or reject, contradicting the acceptance implied by the context.

## 16. “denied” (b)

'Deny + -ing' means to say that something is not true: 'denied having been there' means he said he was not there. 'Refuse + to-infinitive' means to say no to a request — \*'refused having' is grammatically incorrect. 'Rejected' means to turn down an offer or proposal, not to deny a fact. 'Objected to + -ing' means to express disapproval, not to deny a fact.

## 17. “assured” (c)

'Assure someone that' means to tell someone something confidently to reduce their worry or doubt. 'Anxious stakeholders' need reassurance, making 'assured' the perfect fit. 'Ensured' means to make certain something happens — it cannot take 'person + that-clause' (\*ensured them that is wrong). 'Insured' relates to insurance. 'Confirmed' means to verify a fact, not to comfort worried people.

## 18. “adopt” (d)

'Suggest that + subject + subjunctive (base verb)' is the formal pattern: 'suggested that the team adopt'. 'Adopting' would be correct without 'that the team': 'suggested adopting a different method'. 'To adopt' is a common error — \*'suggest someone to do' is always incorrect. 'Adopts' (indicative) is informal and non-standard in formal academic contexts.

### 19. “instructed” (a)

'Instruct + person + to-infinitive' is the correct pattern for giving an official directive. A judge gives binding instructions to a jury — this is a formal command, not a suggestion. 'Suggested', 'proposed', and 'recommended' all imply choice and cannot take 'person + to-infinitive' — \*'suggested the jury to disregard' is grammatically wrong. These verbs require '-ing' or 'that + subjunctive'.

### 20. “disputed” (b)

'Dispute' means to challenge the validity of something by providing counter-arguments. The company is not simply saying the findings are false (deny) — it is engaging with the content and providing reasons (flawed methodology) why the findings should not be accepted. 'Denied' would be a flat rejection without engagement. 'Conceded' and 'acknowledged' mean to admit or accept, which is the opposite of what the company is doing.