



Unit 28 – Nouns & Adjectives in Reporting (*He was adamant that the story was false..*)

When nouns or adjectives are used in reporting situations, the grammar patterns that we use are similar to those that have been learned in previous lessons, but the overall sentence tone tends to be more formal.

A) Reporting with Nouns – When a noun is used in the reporting clause, the reported clause will begin with either:

- i) that -> The **indication** was **that** they were interested in purchasing but will need time to decide.
- ii) a to-infinitive -> The **recommendation** from the meeting was **to do** further analysis.
- iii) a wh- word -> It was Peter who raised the **concern** of **why** it had taken so long to contact customers.

Note that when using nouns to report speech and information, we often use our own words to summarize rather than report what was *actually said (or inferred)*. Take note of the most common nouns in reported statements:

acknowledgement, advice, allegation, announcement, answer, argument, comment, decision, explanation, forecast, guarantee, indication, observation, promise, recommendation, reply, speculation, statement, suggestion, threat, warning

i) Noun + that-clause – note that the ‘be verb’ is often used between ‘noun’ and ‘that’ (*..comment was that..*):

- > Supporters of free speech make the **argument that** there are too many limitations these days.
- > After the CEO hadn’t been seen publicly for some time, **speculation** was **that** he would resign.
- > The Supreme Court is expected to make a **decision** tomorrow **that** will be watched carefully.

Note: -> although ‘that’ can technically be left out, it is usually included in these types of statements

ii) Noun + to-infinitive clause – in some situations, the to-infinitive can be substituted with a that-clause:

- > After careful review, we accepted Lynn’s **proposal to merge** the two teams together.
- > After careful review, we accepted Lynn’s **proposal that** both teams be merged together.
- > Before starting the term, all students made a **promise to show** respect in the classroom.
- > Before starting the term, all students made a **promise that** they would show respect in the classroom.

Also: **decision, instruction, order, recommendation, refusal, threat, warning**

iii) Noun + wh-clause – in many reported statements containing a wh-clause, the noun is followed by **of**:

- > The challenges faced lately have introduced the **question of when** the project will actually finish.
- > Our supply manager has made a **guarantee of when** the product will finally be delivered.

Note: -> In many reported statements using wh-clauses, the noun can be followed by **as to**:

as to + wh-clause -> This still doesn’t answer the question **as to why** they hid information.

as to + wh-clause + to infinitive -> We’re just waiting for the **decision as to when to launch** the new campaign.

In addition, **as to** can be substituted with a preposition while conveying the same meaning:

- > The CEO hasn’t responded to **rumors as to/on whether** he will lay off employees. (as to = *on*)
- > We’re still waiting for an **explanation as to/of why** this took so long. (as to = *of*)

B) Reporting with Adjectives – When an adjective is used in the reporting clause, we use three grammar patterns:

i) Adjective + that-clause – this form tends to express the emotion or confidence of the speaker:

- > Andrew was **adamant that** New York was going win the championship.
- > Despite the accident, they were just **grateful that** nobody was seriously hurt.

Also: **angry, annoyed, frustrated, hesitant, insistent, surprised, shocked, sure**

ii) Adjective + wh-clause – this form tends to express the uncertainty of the speaker:

- > Although the offer was attractive, we were **unsure whether** we could trust the seller.
- > I was **doubtful** the entire time as to **why** he had shown us a different version of the product.

Also: **(un)certain, sure**

iii) Adjective + preposition + noun phrase – in news stories (written & verbal) we often see this pattern used:

- > My sister was **apologetic** for comments **that** she made over the holidays.

Also: **abusive, complimentary, dismissive, insulting, resentful, sympathetic, tactful**



Unit 28 – Exercises:

28.1 – Complete the sentences using the language provided in brackets. Write two versions for each sentence, using both a **that-clause** and a **to-infinitive clause**. More than one noun is possible for each sentence. (28-A)

guarantee / advice / warning / suggestion / statement / decision / announcement

- We felt comfortable choosing this company because of its **guarantee** (deliver / on time)
that it will deliver products on time. / **to deliver products on time.**
- We expected bad news, but everyone was shocked at the CEO's _____ (layoff / 1000 employees)
_____ . / _____ .
- During the pandemic, doctors provided constant _____ (wear / mask / prevent)
_____ . / _____ .
- I think everyone in class was very pleased with Ms. Lee's _____ (postpone / exam / next week)
_____ . / _____ .
- Climatologists have issued another _____ this week (reduce / greenhouse gases / global warming)
_____ . / _____ .
- Following the scandal, the minister was forced to provide a _____ (explain / happened)
_____ . / _____ .
- At the meeting today, I made the _____ (combine / sales teams / reduce costs)
_____ . / _____ .

28.2 – Match the following sentence halves while writing an appropriate **wh-word** in the space. (28-A)

why / which / where / when / how

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. We waited over two hours for an explanation as to | 1. _____ to get his driver's license. |
| 2. After a lengthy meeting, we made our decision of | 2. why she had refused a refund. |
| 3. Jonathan is still thinking about the question of | 3. _____ to replace our aging factories. |
| 4. I don't know how we'll ever resolve the debate of | 4. _____ date to host the conference. |
| 5. A problem with global IT companies is the issue of | 5. _____ to source their technology. |

28.3 – Rewrite the sentences by changing the verb in italics into a **noun** and adding 'as to' + a **wh-clause**. (28-A)

- Senior managers in the company have *advised* whether to expand our products abroad.
We have received **advice from senior managers as to whether to expand our products abroad.**
- Before the exam, Mr. Johnson *instructed* students on how to best prepare.
Beforehand, Mr. Johnson provided _____ .
- People have *speculated* for years about whether Bitcoin is really a safe investment.
For years, there has been a lot of _____ .
- Jennifer *indicated* when she would repay the money she owes me but that still hasn't happened.
There was an _____ .

28.4 – Complete the sentences with an **adjective** from the list and a **WH-word** or a **preposition**. (28-B)

adamant / unsure / doubtful / frustrated / apologetic / abusive / dismissive

- Despite the accusations against him, the president was **adamant that** he would not resign.
- Dad became quite _____ the car broke down on a busy street.
- Upon graduating from college, Mike was _____ companies he should apply to.
- When we asked about the missing documents, she was _____ what happened and ignored us.
- Sarah was very _____ missing today's meeting. She felt terrible about it.
- Unfortunately, he becomes rude and _____ he drinks too much alcohol.
- With the deadline tomorrow at 5pm, I'm _____ our team can finish the project in time.