



# Grammar

## Reported Clauses



## that, whether, if

1. A I realized that excessive exercise **was** harmful.

2. B ~~I realized that excessive exercise **is** harmful.~~ must be in same tense

2. A ~~She **proposed** that we **stayed** at her uncle's farmhouse this weekend.~~

2. B She proposed that we **stay** at her uncle's farmhouse this weekend.

verbs like propose/order/ demanded/insisted/

3. A ~~Roy's checking if / **whether is the chalet** free.~~

halate soali nabayad bashe

3. B Roy's checking whether or not **the chalet is** free.

or not ba if nemiyad

Roy's checking if / whether **the chalet is** free.

4. A ~~The air stewardess asked **if I** wanted coffee, tea or range juice.~~

4. B The air stewardess asked **whether I** wanted coffee, tea or range juice.

## Grammar Point

1. We use a clause beginning with **that** to report a statement or someone's opinion. We often use the past tense for the main clause and the reported clause. But we can also use other tenses in the reported clause depending on the meaning we want to convey.

### EXAMPLES:

The doctor's research revealed **that** too much exercise was harmful.

Diagram labels: "The doctor's research revealed" is labeled "past tense". "that too much exercise was harmful." is labeled "reported clause" and "past tense".

The survey showed **that** most children are familiar with the Internet these days.

Diagram labels: "The survey showed" is labeled "past tense". "that most children are familiar with the Internet these days." is labeled "reported clause" and "present tense".

*(The simple present tense in the reported clause emphasises that the statement is still true at the time of reporting.)*

My friends felt **that** I have neglected them these past few days.

Diagram labels: "My friends felt" is labeled "past tense". "that I have neglected them these past few days." is labeled "reported clause" and "present tense".

*(The present perfect tense in the reported clause emphasises that the event happened in the recent past.)*

My friends felt **that** I had neglected them last month.

Diagram labels: "My friends felt" is labeled "past tense". "that I had neglected them last month." is labeled "reported clause" and "past tense".

*(The past perfect tense in the reported clause emphasises that the event happened further back in the past.)*

## REMEMBER!

- The reported clause is very useful, especially in writing. It is often used to present information that we have read or heard about somewhere else.
- These are some verbs that are commonly used with reported clauses beginning with **that**:  
announce, claim, discover, explain, feel, hope, learn, mention, reveal, say, think
- The word **that** can often be omitted from its reported clause.

EXAMPLE: I knew **that** you would come. ☒

I knew you would come. ☒

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When a reported clause beginning with **that** is used with a verb like **advise, demand, insist, propose, recommend, request, suggest**, etc, we use the base form of the verb or modal + verb in the reported clause.

EXAMPLES:

The committee suggested **that the college move to the capital city.** ☒

past tense                      reported clause  
base form of verb

The committee suggested **that the college should move to the capital city.** ☒

past tense                      reported clause  
modal + verb