

- into town? My car has broken down.' her car had broken down.
- 2 'Hop in,' said the driver. —→ The driver *told her to hop in.* b
- 3 'What about stopping for a coffee?' said the man after a few moments. —→ After a few moments, the man *suggested stopping/that they should stop for a coffee.* c
- 4 'I very much hope,' said Sheila, 'that you'll drive straight on so I can keep an important appointment.' —→ Sheila *urged* the man to drive straight on so she could keep an important appointment. e
- 5 But the man stopped the car. 'If I were you,' he said, 'I'd hand over that bag of yours without a struggle.' —→ Having nevertheless stopped the car, the man *advised* Sheila to hand over her bag without a struggle. d
- 6 However, it was the man who was soon struggling. 'For God's sake let me go!' he cried. 'You're breaking my arm!' —→ However, it was the man who was soon struggling and *begging/imploring/entreating* Sheila to let him go, as she was breaking his arm. e
- 7 'Now,' snapped Sheila, 'you'll drive me first to a garage and afterwards to my weekly appointment at the judo school.' —→ Sheila then *ordered* him to drive her first to a garage and afterwards to her weekly appointment at the judo school. b
- 8 'Whatever you do,' she said, 'don't try any more monkey business.' —→ She *warned him not to try/against trying* any more monkey business. f

Explanation

- a A more forcible alternative to *ask* (1) is *request*, but it is too formal to be included among the above Examples:
'Please be sure to be punctual at all my lectures,' she *told* her students.
—→ She *requested* her students to be punctual . . .
- b A more forcible alternative to *tell* (2) is *order* (7), or sometimes *command*. Although *order* is more common in military and similar contexts, it may be suitable in other contexts, such as this one. Instead of *order* . . . *not* we generally use *forbid* (17A):
'No talking!' *ordered* the headmaster —→ The headmaster *forbade* them to talk.
- c We have already met *suggest* (3) and its use with or without *should* in 11Fa and, when we are less positive and talking only about possibilities, its use with *might* in 12Ap. When our suggestions are based upon a possibility of choice we may use *recommend* (17Db):

'Why not try the Greek restaurant further up the street?'
She *recommended* (us to try/trying/that we should try) the Greek restaurant. . . .

Note that *recommend*, unlike *suggest* but like all the other verbs in this section, may be used with an object + infinitive (17C).

- d For more serious matters, which may involve telling people **not** to do things, we normally use *advise* (5) instead of *suggest* or *recommend* (but see 17Db).
- e When we ask urgently, in order to try and persuade someone to do or not to do something, we use *urge* (4). If this is not strong enough, and we wish to convey anguish, pain or tears, we use *beg*, *implore* or *entreat* (6). *Plead with* (followed by object + infinitive) is also possible, but more in the context of a highly emotional situation of some duration.
- f When someone *tells* or *advises* us **not** to do something wrong, imprudent or dangerous, the appropriate introductory verb is *warn* (8). This verb is also used with *that* to give us notice of possible danger or inconvenience:
'Take care,' he said, 'the roads will be icy.' —→ He *warned* (us) that the roads would be icy.
'The trouble is,' she said, 'the supermarket closes in half an hour.'
—→ She *warned* (us) that the supermarket closed in half an hour.

Exercise 1

Report the following direct speech using the introductory verbs shown in the Examples or mentioned in the Explanation.

- 'Let's send away for this electric kettle advertised in the paper as a special offer,' said my wife.
- It was about three weeks later that I said: 'Will you plug it in while I get the cups?'
- 'You mustn't,' I said, 'fill it with the switch on, whatever you do.'
- 'Stand back,' I cried, 'while I disconnect it!'
- 'Don't ever touch that kettle again,' I said. 'It's live.'
- 'Don't you think,' said my wife, 'we should get a lawn-mower the next time there's a special offer?'
- 'If I were you,' said the girl from next door, who'd just come in, 'I'd get the whole house rewired.'
- 'I do hope you'll follow such an excellent piece of advice,' said my wife.
- 'Mind your own business!' I snapped, still tense after the affair of the kettle.
- 'Don't ever speak to me like that again,' she said, 'if you want any more meals cooked.'
- 'I'm sorry, dearest,' I said. 'Please, please forgive me.'
- 'How about eating out this evening?' I then said, by way of a peace offering.

- 13 'Oh, yes!' said our neighbour. 'Why not go to the new Chinese restaurant? I've heard it's excellent.'
- 14 'Mind you,' she went on, 'you'll have to reserve a table.'
- 15 'And you'd better put on a tie,' she said, eyeing me disapprovingly.
- 16 'Yes,' said my wife, 'go upstairs and change into something decent.'
- 17 'You're not to come out with me looking like that,' she said.
- 18 'If I were you,' said our neighbour, 'I'd telephone the restaurant first.'
- 19 'Hurry up,' said my wife, 'whichever you do first.'
- 20 I suddenly felt a great need for peace and quiet. 'Look,' I said, 'why don't you two go out instead of me?'

Exercise 2

Oral practice (general revision): Without using the book yourself, get someone to say the following to you and then report, as if to a third person, what you have heard, beginning *She/He* as shown below. Since the reporting is immediate, do not change the reference to time such as *this morning* or to place, such as *here* (see 12Ae).

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Excuse me for being late this morning; I was held up by the traffic. | → | <i>She asked me to excuse her for being late this morning; she said she was held up by the traffic.</i> |
| I'd have got here quicker if I'd come on a bicycle. | → | <i>She said she'd have got here quicker if she'd come on a bicycle.</i> |
| I should leave early this evening if I were you. | → | <i>She advised me to leave early this evening.</i> |

- 1 Where do you come from? Are you staying here long?
- 2 Is this the first time you've been here?
- 3 I've been living here for over a year and quite like the place.
- 4 But I'd rather live in London. Wouldn't you?
- 5 You must find this place rather dull compared with your home town.
- 6 What can we do this evening if we decide to go out?
- 7 We could go to the cinema if there are any good films on.
- 8 How about going to a concert? Do you like music?
- 9 You needn't decide now; you can let me know later.
- 10 Shall I come round to your house or wait for you here?
- 11 Will you be ready if I call for you at six o'clock?
- 12 Don't forget to bring an umbrella, as it may rain.
- 13 I wish my car was in order, so I could have given you a lift.
- 14 It's being repaired, and won't be ready until the end of the week.
- 15 I wish I knew more about cars than I do.
- 16 I could save a lot of money if I was able to do the maintenance myself.
- 17 I had to come here by bus this morning, as I'm without my car.
- 18 Did you walk or drive to work this morning?
- 19 You mustn't drive on the right here whatever you do.

- 20 If you've been to Japan, you'll know that they drive on the left there too.
- 21 Do you think I'd like your country if I visited it?
- 22 Tell me the things I should make a point of seeing.
- 23 I must try and save some money so that I can visit you.
- 24 I must go now, as I have to correct some homework.
- 25 You mustn't forget that you have some homework to do for tomorrow.