

## Exercise 3

## alternative reporting verbs



In addition to “say”, “tell”, “ask” etc., there are many verbs you can use with indirect speech. These verbs often communicate interesting information. So, if you have the opportunity, it’s a good idea to use a variety of reporting verbs in a writing test. For example, the sentence “Alan claimed he could speak French” communicates more than “Alan said he could speak French”.

However, make sure you know the grammar of the verbs so that you can use them without making mistakes!

Read the voicemail from Tom to Megan, and then complete Megan’s diary notes below. You must use **no more than three words** in each gap. There is an example at the beginning.

### Tom’s voicemail to Megan

“Hi, Megan. Tom here. First of all, sorry for not calling last week. So, I’m amazed you’ve persuaded the university to pay for your trip to Vanuatu. Well done! I’m sure you’ll get some great work done for your book while you’re there. In your text, you say you’re considering going in January. Well, that’s the middle of Vanuatu’s summer, of course, but it’s also the rainy season, so I’d recommend October or May – still nice and warm but less chance of spending the whole time wet! I know you’re going mainly to research the wildlife in the jungle, but you must go diving too; it’s absolutely fantastic! Good luck getting everything ready for the trip, and let’s meet somewhere for a drink before you go; I can tell you all about my time there. Call me. Bye.”

### Megan’s notes in her diary

Tom left a phone message today. First, he apologized **(0)** for not calling me last week, which was nice. He congratulated **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ the university to pay for my trip to Vanuatu, but he discouraged **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ there in January because of all the rain. He also insisted **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ diving at some point. I must learn how! Apparently, it’s a wonderful experience. Finally, he wished **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_