

Verbs of Attribution

Frequently Used In:
Speaking & Writing

The many ways of saying said.

Quoting someone in your writing tells the reader what the author said, but it does not reveal *how* they said it. An author *observing* that the lunch line is long has a different connotation than an author *declaring* that the lunch line is long. In this example, the reader understands that the second author is a bit grumpy about the long line for french fries—because it is implied in the verb of attribution.

To Claim:

Alleges, Alludes, Argues, Asserts, Believes, Claims, Contends, Declares, Defends, Hypothesizes, Implores, Insists, Maintains, Postulates, Proposes, Speculates, States, Suggests, Theorizes, Thinks

To Add Detail:

Adds, Considers, Compares, Describes, Explains, Expresses, Finds, Illustrates, Lists, Observes, Notes, Points Out, Reasons, Remarks, Reports, Reveals

To Agree:

Accepts, Acknowledges, Admits, Agrees, Affirms, Cites, Concurs, Confirms, Defends, Echoes, Endorses, Grants, Maintains, Supports, Underlines, Underscores, Verifies

To Disagree:

Admonishes, Challenges, Contests, Counters, Criticizes, Critiques, Denies, Disagrees, Disputes, Objects, Opposes, Refutes, Rejects, Retorts

To Question:

Asks, Cross-Examines, Debates, Doubts, Impeach, Inquires, Interrogates, Investigates, Questions, Queries, Wonders