

Talked until dawn

a song by Alan Smith Robertson

<https://youtu.be/tVieNqNjb4g>

Put the reporting verbs from the list on the right into an appropriate space.
Sometimes there is more than one possible verb.

Then listen to see if you guessed right.

Lyrics

VERSE

I'm no boyfriend material
I don't commit to anyone
I once had this girl, she liked to talk
And when she did, I wanted to turn her off

CHORUS

She ¹ _____ that we needed to talk
And I ² _____ her what was wrong
And then she talked until dawn
And as night turned into day
And I ³ _____ her I could change
But I turned and she had left

VERSE

She ⁴ _____ me that she needed time
And ⁵ _____ for the hurt she caused
I ⁶ _____ to give her some space
and I ⁷ _____ that I would wait for her

BRIDGE

And so I ⁸ _____, I was tempted away
Oh, but my Mercedes attracts the ladies

VERSE

When she finally came back
I ⁹ _____ I'd met someone else
And then she ¹⁰ _____ me to stay
And then she ¹¹ _____ me for how she felt

Verbs

admit
advised
agreed
apologised
asked
begged
blamed
confessed
insisted
persuaded
promised
reminded
said
suggested
threatened
told
urged
warned

Post-listening activities

Are there any differences in meaning between the verb in the lyrics and the one that you chose?

For example, in #6 (*I agreed to give her some space*) maybe you wrote one of the phrases below:

- “I asked to give her some space”
- “I begged to give her some space”
- “I promised to give her some space”
- “I threatened to give her some space”

Do you prefer **your** choices or the actual lyrics?

* * *

Now look at these lines from the song: *I once had this girl, she liked to talk
And when she did, I wanted to turn her off*

What does “*I wanted to turn her off*” mean? Why is this a strange choice of words?

* * *

The lyrics of the song narrate a conversation between two people who are in a romantic relationship with each other. Look at the conversation below and fill the gaps to imagine how the conversation went. Also try adding other phrases to make the conversation sound more natural.

She said that we needed to talk, and I asked her what was wrong.
She told me that she needed time and I told her I could change.
She could see that I was in pain so she apologised for the hurt she caused.
I agreed to give her some space and I promised that I would wait for her.
(When she finally came back) I confessed I'd met someone else.
She begged me to stay and then she blamed me for how she felt.

♀ We need to talk

♂ _____.

♀ This relationship isn't working. _____.

♂ _____

♀ It's too late. _____.

♂ OK, _____.

[several weeks later]

♀ I'm back!

♂ Oh dear... _____.

♀ What?

♂ I have to go

♀ No! _____.

* * *

Have you ever had an uncomfortable conversation with someone?

Maybe you've had to apologise for a mistake you made, or give someone some bad news!

How did it go?

Talked until dawn

a song by Alan Smith Robertson to practise reported speech and reporting verbs

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Teacher's answer sheet. Length: approximately 30 minutes

Put the reporting verbs from the list on the right into an appropriate space.
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Lyrics

VERSE

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CHORUS

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VERSE

She ⁴ told me that she needed time
And ⁵ apologised for the hurt she caused
I ⁶ agreed to give her some space
and I ⁷ promised that I would wait for her

BRIDGE

And so I ⁸ admit, I was tempted away
Oh, but my Mercedes attracts the ladies

VERSE

When she finally came back
I ⁹ confessed I'd met someone else
And then she ¹⁰ begged me to stay
And then she ¹¹ blamed me for how she felt

Verbs (and the gaps where each verb could go)

admit ^{1, 7, 8, 9}
advised ¹⁰
agreed ^{1, 6, 8, 9}
apologised ^{5, 8}
asked ^{2, 5, 6, 10}
begged ^{5, 6, 10}
blamed ¹¹
confessed ^{1, 7, 9}
insisted ^{1, 7, 8, 9}
persuaded ^{2, 3, 4}
promised ^{1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9}
reminded ^{2, 3, 4, 10}
said ^{1, 8, 9}
suggested ^{1, 7, 9}
threatened ⁶
told ^{2, 3, 4, 10}
urged ^{3, 6, 10}
warned ^{1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10}

Post-listening activities

Are there any differences in meaning between the verb in the lyrics and the one that you chose?

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- “I threatened to give her some space”

Do you prefer **your** choices or the actual lyrics?

* * *

Now look at these lines from the song: *I once had this girl, she liked to talk
And when she did, I wanted to turn her off*

What does “I wanted to turn her off” mean? Why is this a strange choice of words?

It is a strange choice of words because we normally turn off a radio or a television. The expression “to turn somebody off” does not exist but if it did then in this context it could mean “to disconnect”, “to ignore” or “to silence”.

* * *

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She could see that I was in pain so she apologised for the hurt she caused.
I agreed to give her some space and I promised that I would wait for her.
(When she finally came back) I confessed I'd met someone else.
She begged me to stay and then she blamed me for how she felt.

Suggested answer: ♀ We need to talk
♂ **What's wrong?**
♀ This relationship isn't working. **I need time.**
♂ **I can change**
♀ It's too late. **I'm sorry for the hurt I'm causing.**
♂ OK, **I'll give you some space. And I will wait for you, I promise.**
[several weeks later]
♀ I'm back!
♂ Oh dear... **I have a confession to make; I've met someone else.**
♀ What?
♂ I have to go
♀ No! **Please stay, I'm begging you! I feel terrible and it's all your fault!**

* * *

Have you ever had an uncomfortable conversation with someone?

Maybe you had to apologise for a mistake you made, or give someone bad news! How did it go?

Encourage students to use reported speech here