



Say or Tell?

‘to communicate verbally with
someone’

Say OR Tell?

- o You say something
- o Ram said that he was tired.
- o Anthony says you have a new job.
- o Tara said: "I love you."
- o You tell someone something
- o Ram told **Jane** that he was tired.
- o Anthony tells **me** you have a new job.
- o Tara told **John** that she loved him.

Say OR Tell?

- o We usually use say without a personal object:
- o She said that she loved John.
- o We usually follow tell with a personal object (the person that we are speaking to):
- o She told me that she loved John.

Say

- o With *say*, we sometimes use "to someone":
- o He *said to me* that he was tired.
- o "I'd like to sleep," she *said to him* quietly.

Direct speech

- o We can use say with direct speech.
- o Amanda said, "Hello John. How are you?"
- o She said: "Do you love me?"
- o We use tell only with direct speech that is an instruction or information, not with questions:
- o He told her: "Open the door quietly."

Orders, advice

- o We use **tell** + **object** + **infinitive** for orders or advice (not SAY):
- o She **told him to sit** down.
- o They **told me not to wait**.
- o **Tell Neil to have** a holiday and **forget** her.

Fixed phrases with tell

- o* We cannot use say with these phrases:
- o* tell (someone) a story, a joke
- o* tell (someone) a lie
- o* tell (someone) the truth
- o* tell the future (= to know what the future will bring)
- o* tell the time (= know how to read a clock)
- o* tell a secret

Fixed phrases with say

- o Say good morning/afternoon/evening/night.*
- o Say it's true or false.*
- o Say a lot/a little.*
- o Say nothing.*
- o Say sorry/thanks/please.*
- o Say a prayer*
- o Say yes/no.*
- o Say what you want to say.*
- o Say it out loud.*
- o Say hello/goodbye.*
- o Say it with flowers*

Complete the following phrases with say or tell

- 0 **TEL** _____ a story
- 0 **TEL** _____ the time
- 0 As far as I can **TEL** _____
- 0 **SA** _____ yes or no
- 0 **TEL** _____ somebody to do something
- 0 **TEL** _____ somebody what to do
- 0 **SAY** _____ hello / goodbye
- 0 **TEL** _____ a lie / lies
- 0 **SA** _____ what you mean
- 0 **SA** _____ under your breath
- 0 **Y**