

# Say and Tell Exercises

Level: B1

## Say words; tell someone

*Say* focuses on the words spoken. *Tell* normally needs a person or listener after it. Use *say to someone* when you name the listener, and *tell someone* without *to*.

**Say:** *She said that she was tired.* Do not put a person directly after *say*: *she said me* is wrong.

**Say to:** *She said hello to me.* Add *to* when the listener follows *say*.

**Tell:** *She told me that she was tired.* Put the listener directly after *tell*.

**Common phrases:** *Say hello/sorry/yes/no; tell a story/a joke/a lie/the truth.* Learn these as whole phrases.

**Past forms:** The past forms are *said* and *told*: *He said goodbye. He told me the news.*

## Exercise 1: Choose say or tell

Choose the form that makes a natural English sentence.

1. She \_\_\_ me that the train was late.  
a) said   b) told   c) told to
2. He \_\_\_ that he was tired.  
a) said   b) told   c) told to
3. Please \_\_\_ me the truth.  
a) say   b) tell   c) told
4. They \_\_\_ goodbye to us before leaving.  
a) told   b) said   c) told to
5. Dad \_\_\_ us a funny story.  
a) said   b) told   c) said to
6. What did she \_\_\_ to you?  
a) say   b) tell   c) told

## Exercise 2: Complete with said or told

Type the past form *\*said\** or *\*told\**. Check whether a listener follows the verb.

7. He \_\_\_ that he wanted to leave.
8. She \_\_\_ her brother the news.
9. The guide \_\_\_ us to wait outside.
10. I \_\_\_ hello to my new neighbour.
11. They \_\_\_ a joke at dinner.

12. My friend \_\_\_ that the film was good.

### **Exercise 3: Fix say and tell**

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*Replace the incorrect verb or form with the correct one. Keep the rest of the sentence.*

13. She said me that the shop was closed.

\_\_\_\_\_

14. He told that he was ill.

\_\_\_\_\_

15. Please say me the answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Mum said us a story.

\_\_\_\_\_

17. I told goodbye to my friend.

\_\_\_\_\_

18. They said the truth to the teacher.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Answer key

## Exercise 1: Choose say or tell

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1. b) told
2. a) said
3. b) tell
4. b) said
5. b) told
6. a) say

## Exercise 2: Complete with said or told

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7. said
8. told
9. told
10. said
11. told
12. said

## Exercise 3: Fix say and tell

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13. She told me that the shop was closed.
14. He said that he was ill.
15. Please tell me the answer.
16. Mum told us a story.
17. I said goodbye to my friend.
18. They told the truth to the teacher.