

Introduce yourself. Tell the class where you are from and where you live now. Tell something you did this week.

People confuse the verbs: say, tell and ask.

Tell is usually followed by a person. The past tense of tell is “told”. Read the sentences.

Tell Jack the answer.	Tell me your secret.	Tell him to sit down.
Tell me your address.	Tell me how to say “book” in Spanish.	
We told Jack the answer.	She told me her secret.	I told him to sit down.
He told me his name.	We told them our names.	She told me the answer.

Use tell with other question words like when, why, how, where. Read the sentences.

Tell me **when** your flight arrives. Tell me **why** you came. Tell me **when** you will arrive.
I told her **how** to say it. She told me **where** she found it. They told me **when** to pick them up.
Tell me **why** you came. Tell the policeman **what** you saw.

You can tell someone the time, tell a story, tell a joke, tell your name or age or address.

Finish these sentences:

I tell my children to...
My mother always told me to
The teacher told me to...
My father loves to tell...

Use “say” when you report someone’s words. The past tense of say is “said”. Said is pronounced "sed". Read the sentences.

The teacher says I am smart.	Father says I need a haircut.
She said I was a good boy.	He said he wanted some coffee.
How do you say “book” in Spanish?	Did you say you wanted a cookie?
Say “hello” to the nice lady.	Always say “thank you”.

Correct:

You don't use tell when you are giving a direct quote. You must use said. EX: Jim said, "The teacher is great." NOT: Jim told, "The teacher is great." You can say, Jim said the teacher was good. That is not a direct quote from Jim.

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of “say” or “tell”.

1. The police officer _____, “Come.”
2. The police officer _____ me to come.
3. I _____ goodbye to him.

4. Grandma _____ my son a funny story.
5. Can you _____ me where the library is?
6. The teacher _____ that the students were smart.
7. Can you _____ me the time?
8. Did you _____ her a joke?
9. She _____ the doctor that she felt better.
10. He _____ the library was one block away.
11. She didn't _____ where she was going.
12. Did you _____ the truth?
13. Anthony _____ he was very tired.
14. Jesse _____, "I love you."
15. Jess _____ her he loved her.
16. They _____ us to leave.
17. Mother _____ it was still raining.
18. They _____ me to wait.
19. You _____ the teacher a lie.
20. Tom _____ Marty to go home.
21. Len _____ he was coming.
22. I _____, "Turn off the TV."
23. Ben _____ me to hurry up.
24. The fireman _____, "Run to the street."
25. The fireman _____ us to run to the street.

Ask is used for questions. The past tense of ask is "asked". Read the sentences

Ask someone to help you.

My sister **asked** me to babysit.

She **asked** the waiter for the check.

Ask her to pick you up.

They **asked** him where he was going.

We **asked** many questions.

Answer is used to reply to a question. EX: The teacher **asked** me a question, but I didn't **answer**.

Ask another student a question about themselves. Listen to the answer.

Speak or Talk

Use "**speak**" to talk about what language you know. EX: I **speak** Spanish. I don't **speak** English.

NOT: I **talk** Spanish. You can use "speak" followed by an adverb. EX: She **speaks** loudly.

They **speak** quietly. All of the students **speak** well. Speak is more formal than talk. EX: The teacher wants to **speak** with you. Use "**talk**" in more casual ways. EX: Deb and I **talked** about her wedding. Do you want to **talk** about your problems? I need to **talk** to you.

What do you talk to your friends about?

CONVERSATIONS WITH IDIOMS

Sam: Do you think that girl will like me?

Mia: I don't know. There is **no way to tell**.

Mom: Billy, I told you to clean your room. You haven't done it. **Don't make me tell you again.**

Billy: I'm sorry Mom. I'll clean my room now.

Sister: Billy, Mom told you to clean your room. You are playing video games. I'm going to **tell on you**.

Billy: Don't be a **tattle tale**, Sis.

Teacher: The twins look just alike. I can't **tell them apart**.

Principal: You are right. I can't tell them apart either.

Donna: I will tell you the answer.

Ellen: **Don't tell me**. I want to figure it out myself.

Mom: **Don't tell me** you were late to school again! Why were you late? That is the third time this week.

Billy: I don't know, Mom. I guess I need to leave earlier.

Mother: The children are learning to **tell time**.

Mary: Is it hard for them?

Linda: This summer was very hot!

Lori: **You can say that again!**

Trudy: All you have to do is learn to speak English. Then you can get a good job here.

Mindy: That's **easier said than done**.