

Vocabulary

say, speak, talk and tell; ways of speaking

► CB page 141

1 Underline the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

- 1 There are times when it's better not to *tell/talk* the truth, though *telling/saying* lies is not usually a good idea.
- 2 I can't *speak/talk* Russian, but I'd love to learn; it'd be wonderful to be able to *talk/say* with Russians.
- 3 I'm not sure whether it's raining as I can't *tell/say* by looking out of the window.
- 4 I love it when my teacher *tells/says* us funny jokes.
- 5 Everyone *said/told* me they enjoyed the show, though the critics didn't have a good word to *say/tell* about it.
- 6 Please don't *tell/say* a word to Chris about the present because it's a surprise for her!
- 7 It can be difficult to *talk/tell* to people face-to-face and sometimes it's easier to *speak/tell* on the phone.
- 8 Please don't *say/tell* you've forgotten to buy any food because I *told/spoke* you this morning that the fridge was empty!
- 9 Generally *speaking/saying*, men make better chefs than women – though women may disagree!
- 10 I can't imagine what you're going to *say/speak* to the boss as it goes without *saying/telling* that you're going to be in trouble!

2 Replace the underlined phrases in sentences 1–6 with a phrase using the words in brackets.

- 1 Everyone knows that it's more difficult to learn a language when you're older. (*saying*)
- 2 On the whole men are stronger than women physically. (*generally*)
- 3 He's very quiet – maybe he's shy. (*hasn't*)
- 4 People who say what they think are often easier to work with. (*mind*)
- 5 I think that what you do is more important than what you say. (*actions*)
- 6 Let me know if I can do anything to help you. (*word*)

3 Correct the mistakes in sentences 1–6 using the correct form of the verbs in the box.

whisper yell mutter mumble scream cry

- 1 You have to yell in a library so you don't disturb other people.
- 2 Don't scream – I can't hear you properly.
- 3 He always cries to himself angrily if he doesn't like what politicians say.
- 4 The girl mumbled as she fell off the cliff, but luckily her boyfriend heard and caught her!
- 5 The boy muttered at his friend as she was going to get on the wrong bus.
- 6 A baby whispers when it is hungry.