



English – Year 5B

VOCABULARY: SAY vs. TELL

Read about the use of say and tell.

SAY vs. TELL

You say SOMETHING (to someone)

Helen said, "I love you" to her dad.

I said (that) I was sorry.

You tell SOMEONE (something)

Helen told her dad that she loved him.

I told Yuki (that) I was sorry.

Exception: tell + (joke/story/lie/truth)

He told a joke. She tells good stories.

They told a lie. I always tell the truth.

SAY

Collocations

TELL

Say hello / goodbye /
good morning / good night

Say yes / no

Say something / nothing

Say thank you / you are welcome

Say a prayer

Say a word / a few words

Tell the truth / a lie

Tell a story / a tale

Tell a joke

Tell a secret

Tell the time / the future

Tell the difference

1 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Don't leave until you have said
- 2 When someone has done something for you, you should say
- 3 When you have hurt someone, you can make it better by saying
- 4 When you say what you're thinking so that people can hear, you say
- 5 If someone didn't hear you, it helps to say

2 Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of *tell* and the words in the box.

a lie a joke a secret the truth off the difference

- 1 My friend told me a joke yesterday – it was very funny, but now I can't remember it!
- 2 One day when I was little, I my parents and they were very angry.
- 3 Can you between an American accent and a British accent?
- 4 My teacher was so angry with me. She really me
- 5 He says he's won medals for tennis, but I don't think he's
- 6 I'm going to you Do you promise not to tell anyone else?

3 Choose the correct option in each case.

- 1 Someone's body language says / tells you how they are feeling.
- 2 When someone crosses their arms, it says / tells us they want to protect themselves.
- 3 About 90% of what we say / tell isn't spoken. We communicate a lot through body language.
- 4 Can you say / tell me what this means?
- 5 I can't say / tell the difference between the old version and the new one.
- 6 If something is bothering you, please say / tell it.
- 7 He's only four years old but he can already say / tell the time.
- 8 Can I say / tell you a secret, if you promise to keep it to yourself?
- 9 I hope you're not saying / telling me a lie. You'll be in trouble, if you are.
- 10 You've said / told me that joke before. Don't you know any others?

Past simple vs. present perfect simple

- 1 We use the past simple to talk about complete events which are finished, or before 'now', the moment of speaking.
*I called you yesterday. Where **were** you?*
*We **didn't have** computers when I **was** born.*
- 2 We use the present perfect simple to connect the past and 'now', the moment of speaking.
*We've called you three times today. Where **have** you **been**?*
We've lived in the same house all our lives.
- 3 Use the past simple with *minutes ago, yesterday, last week, when I was ...* etc.
We often use *for, since, just, already, yet, ever* and *never* with the present perfect.
*They **went** out a few minutes **ago**.* *They've **just** left.*
*I **saw** that film **yesterday**.* *I've **already** seen that film.*
*I **met** her boyfriend **last weekend**.* *I've **never** met your girlfriend.*
*We **moved** there **when** I **was** young.* *We've lived there **since** I **was** a child.*

Time expressions

- 1 We use *just* before the past participle to say that something happened a short time ago.
*We've **just** arrived.* *They've **just** gone out.*
- 2 We use *already* at the end of the sentence or before the past participle to express surprise or emphasise that something happened.
*Have you **finished** **already**?* *We've **already** seen this film.*
- 3 We use *yet* at the end of negative sentences to emphasise that something didn't happen (but probably will in the future), and at the end of questions.
*I **haven't** started this exercise **yet**. (but I will)* *Have you **met** my new boyfriend **yet**?*
- 4 We use *still* before *haven't* in negative sentences, or before *not* in questions, to show surprise that something you expected to happen didn't happen.
*I can't believe you **still** **haven't** said sorry.* *Has she **still** **not** told you the truth?*

4 Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the past simple or present perfect simple.

- 1 I 've never had (never have) a surprise party.
- 2 I _____ (leave) school last June.
- 3 I still _____ (not send) an email to Dave.
I'll do it now.
- 4 How long _____ she _____ (have) that piercing? It looks new.
- 5 _____ you _____ (go) to the cinema last night?

5 Choose the correct answer: a, b or c.

- 1 I've made a terrible mistake.
a yet b ever c just
- 2 She seen her boyfriend all week.
a never b didn't c hasn't
- 3 You haven't sorry for shouting at me.
a say b saying c said
- 4 Wait! I haven't had breakfast
a still b ago c yet
- 5 How long you wait for me last night?
a did b have c do
- 6 My birthday was three days
a ago b just c last
- 7 My brother and sister bought me
a present for my birthday.
a didn't yet b has never c still haven't