Eh? Say what? Tell me, again! … but be SURE to do it, correctly! … Can you?



1. Join* these, correctly:

They said WHAT to you?!



Tell me a story! / Tell a story to me!

Yes! We're going to help you use what Star calls "speaking verbs," correctly, but…just what are they?!

*Draw a line from the sentences to the upper left hand corner of the appropriate pictures

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Star calls "speaking verbs" all those verbs that express, well, speaking in its many forms both personal and professional. You need many of these verbs every day, so let's see how to use them, correctly. Look at the sentences, above, and YOU tell ME what differences, *other than imperative vs. question*, you see.



2. (*Choose*) _____



3. How well do you know the following common speaking verbs? Tick the correct answers

_____ I answered him, yesterday | _____ I answered to him, yesterday | _____ I answered by him, yesterday.

_____ They'll respond him, soon. | _____ They'll respond to him, soon. | _____ They'll respond by him, soon.

_____ She'll explain it him. | _____ She'll explain it to him. | _____ She'll explain it by him.

_____ Don't ask him, he's mad. | _____ Don't ask to him, he's mad. | _____ Don't ask by him, he's mad.

4. *Some* speaking verbs need different prepositions depending on what you want to say. (*Tick right answers*)



Mom talks to her every day. _____ monologue | _____ dialogue | _____ third party

Mom talks with her every day. _____ monologue | _____ dialogue | _____ third party

Mom talks about her with her neighbor. _____ monologue | _____ dialogue | _____ third party

How can you know which prepositions can be used, and how they change the meaning? (Learner's Dictionary!)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

This is true if you use a speaking verb with a modal or as a second verb (ex., needs to speak…), too. Drag & drop:

The candidate will speak to them. The doctor needs to present that to them. The boss could say it to them. The sales rep explained it to us. The mayor stated it to them.	The candidate will speak with them. The doctor needs to present that with them. The boss could say it with them. The sales rep explained it with us. The mayor stated it with them. (N.B., sometimes "with" also means "together with," i.e., both are speakers.)	The candidate will speak about them. The doctor needs to present that about them. The boss could say it about them. The sales rep explained it about us. The mayor stated it about them.
		

5. _____ _____ _____

So, you've seen that lots can take "to" and even other prepositions before the listener. **Which can't?**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

There are three commonly used verbs that **don't** want "to" before the listener: **answer** (*Watch out … NEVER pronounce the "w"!*), **ask**, and … *when the listener immediately follows the verb* … **tell** … Look at these:



He **asked me** the day before yesterday.

I **answered him**, yesterday.

She'll **tell him** a joke, tomorrow.

(BUT…She'll **tell** a joke **to him**, tomorrow.)

6. Your turn! (*ungraded*)

"ask" – her: _____

"answer" – them: _____

"tell" – me – a story: _____

"tell" – a story – to me: _____

There are two last things to look at…what could they be?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What's the difference between **talk** and **speak**? It has to do with "register"... maybe you've seen this, before.



6. Let's see what you know, first. Thinking about **REGISTER**, *tick* the sentences that are better:

_____ The chairman talked with the board members. | _____ The chairman spoke with the board members.

_____ Grandma talked to me about that, yesterday. | _____ Grandma spoke to me about that, yesterday.

_____ That speaker talked to the attendees, today. | _____ That speaker spoke to the attendees, today.

_____ I've already talked to mom about that. | _____ I've already spoken to mom about that.

Last, but not least, use **tell** to emphasize the *narration / tale*; use **say** to emphasize *the act of speaking*:



7. Now it's your turn. Write your own sentences (*ungraded*):

say – him – a thousand times: _____

tell – Johnnie – a bedtime story: _____

explain – that – us: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

(N.B., all images are Microsoft Clipart from the Word program used to make this file.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS