Vocabulary

say, *speak*, *talk* and *tell*; ways of speaking

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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!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS