

Say - Tell

We use **say** in direct and reported speech with or without a personal pronoun.

Tom said, "I need some help."

Tom said (that) he needed some help.

Tom said to me, "I need some help."

Tom said to me (that) he needed some help. (less common)

We use **tell** with a personal pronoun. We never use **to** with tell.

"Tom told me (that) he needed some help." (NOT: Tom ~~told~~ to me ...)

1. Fill in the gaps with **say**, **said** or **told**.

- 1 "Alright class, open your books to page five,"
1) the teacher.
"Miss, what's our lesson about?" asked Amy.
"Today's lesson is about whales. Now, Amy read the first paragraph," she 2) her.
"Sorry Miss, what page did you 3)?"
Amy asked.
"I 4) page five."
- 2 "Hello, Jan" 1) Oscar.
"Hi, Oscar."
"I've got some great news," Oscar 2) her.
"Oh, really!" Jan 3)
"Guess what! Sally 4) me that she'll be in town for a week!" 5) Oscar.
- 3 "I'm afraid I can't help you with the housework today," Greg 1) Diane.
"That's OK," 2) Diane.
"I know you're busy."
"But I can do the shopping," 3) Greg.
"That would be great," Diane 4) to him.

2. Fill in the gaps with say or tell in the correct form.

- 1 Kathy her friends the truth about what had happened that night.
- 2 "I'll call you later," he to her.
- 3 Ken us that he was having a barbecue at the weekend.
- 4 "Please turn the volume down," Cindy
- 5 "Open your books at page 29," the teacher to her pupils.
- 6 "Could you me the time, please?" he asked me.
- 7 Jane ran down the stairs, good morning and left for work.
- 8 My grandmother used to us exciting stories by the fire every night.
- 9 "Why did you everybody my secret?" he asked.
- 10 "I'm sorry. I can't you the way to the station because I'm lost too," he said.