

87 say, tell, ask, advise

Jack told the doctor that he was still having headaches and she advised him to see a specialist.

I'm still having headaches, Doctor.

I think you should see a specialist.

1 say and tell

We use the verbs *say* and *tell* to report information. Look at the differences between *say* and *tell*:

SAY	TELL
Jack <i>said that</i> he was still having headaches. Jack <i>said to me that</i> he was still having headaches.	Jack <i>told me that</i> he was still having headaches.

- ! X Jack ~~said me that~~ he was still having headaches.
- X Jack ~~told that~~ he was still having headaches.
- X Jack ~~told to me that~~ he was still having headaches.

NATURAL ENGLISH In everyday English, we often use *say* and *tell* without *that*:
Lucy said (that) she'd meet us at six o'clock.
He told me (that) he couldn't come to the party.

2 tell, ask and advise

When we report instructions, requests and advice, we can use *tell*, *ask* and *advise*. With these verbs, we use the infinitive with *to*:

'Be quiet!' → *She told me to be quiet.*

- ! We put *not* BEFORE the infinitive with *to*:

'Don't touch the oven!' → X *She told me don't touch the oven.*
 ✓ *She told me not to touch the oven.*

- instructions:
TEACHER 'Don't talk during the lesson!' → Our teacher **told us not to talk** during the lesson.
- requests:
MOTHER 'Please phone home, Anna.' → Anna's mother **asked her to phone** home.
- advice:
DOCTOR 'I think you should see a specialist.' → Jack's doctor **advised him to see** a specialist.

Practice

1 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

- 0 I *said* / *told* the interviewer that I was really interested in the job.
- 1 He *said* / *told* me that a lot of people had applied for the job.
- 2 But he *said* / *told* that my qualifications were good.
- 3 I *told* / *said* him that I had studied part-time.
- 4 He *said* / *told* that my application was very impressive.
- 5 After the interview, he *said* / *told* me that I was perfect for the job.
- 6 And I *said* / *told* that I would love to work there.

2 Look at the pictures and complete the reported instructions, requests or advice for each one.

- 0 The teacher asked *the students to*
listen carefully
- 1 He told them to
- 2 He told Carla
- 3 He told the students
- 4 He asked the class
- 5 He advised



3 Find six more mistakes in the sentences and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

- 0 My mother ^{told/asked} ~~said~~ me to phone her from the airport.
- 1 Harry told that he was very happy.
- 2 The assistant asked me wait for a few minutes.
- 3 My lecturer advised me take the exam again in June.
- 4 The teacher told the children to not talk in class.
- 5 I said the assistant that I wanted a return ticket to Paris.
- 6 My boss asked me not to leave work early that day.
- 7 Sophie said that she was feeling really unhappy.
- 8 My friend asked me don't buy her a birthday present.

4 Think about the last time you had an interview: as part of an exam, for a job, or for a course of study. Write three sentences about it, starting *They / He / She asked me to / told me to / advised me to*.

At my last interview, they asked me to take a test.

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