

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



- ~~*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.

told/asked

- 0 My mother *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.