

Grammar reporting verbs (say and tell)

▶ REPORTING VERBS (SAY and TELL)

- 1 He **told news reporters** that he had been very curious when he had seen the message.
- 2 The message **said** that his boat was sinking and that he loved her.

For further information and practice, see page 176.

- 6 Read the sentences in the grammar box and answer these questions.
 - 1 Which verbs report the words of someone?
 - 2 Which reporting verb is followed by an object (e.g. *you, her, them, reporters*)?
 - 3 Which reporting verb is not followed by an object?
- 7 Choose the correct options to complete the conversation.

A: Did I ¹ *say / tell* you there was a great TV programme on last night?

B: No, what was it about?

A: Space travel in the next one hundred years. They ² *said / told* that humans would soon land on Mars.

B: Really? When did they ³ *say / tell* that would happen?

A: The presenter didn't ⁴ *say / tell* exactly, but probably in the next thirty years.

B: OK. I read an article that ⁵ *said / told* there would be a hotel on the moon soon.

A: Yes, but someone ⁶ *said / told* me a few years ago that there were going to be space hotels orbiting the Earth soon, and nothing's happened yet.

- 8 Work in pairs. Report these messages using *say* or *tell*.

- 1 'Your lunch is in the fridge.'
She _____ him that his _____.
- 2 'I'm lost in the middle of the city.'
He _____ that he _____.
- 3 'I've loved you for years.'
Maria _____ Joel that she _____.
- 4 'We're waiting for you at the café.'
They _____ that they _____.
- 5 'I'll call you back later.'
Dave _____ me that he _____.
- 6 'You need to phone this number.'
The message _____ that I _____.

Writing and speaking my life

- 9 Write a message to put in a bottle in the sea. Include information about who you are and why you are writing the message. Use one of these suggestions or your own idea.
 - you are lost at sea
 - you are stuck on a desert island
 - you are doing an experiment
- 10 Exchange your message with a partner. Imagine someone has found the message one hundred years in the future. Write a short news report about your partner's message. What did the message say?

Today, a person found a message in a bottle. It was written 100 years ago. The message said ...
- 11 Read your news report to your partner.

A fishing boat near the Shetland Islands, Scotland



my life

▶ OPINIONS ABOUT GAMES ▶ A PERSONAL MESSAGE ▶ LOCAL HISTORY ▶ A HISTORICAL PLACE
▶ A BIOGRAPHY

133