



English – Year 5B

### VOCABULARY: SAY vs. TELL

Read about the use of *say* and *tell*.

## SAY vs. TELL

You **say** SOMETHING (to someone)

Helen said, "I love you" to her dad.

I said (that) I was sorry.

You **tell** SOMEONE (something)

Helen told her dad that she loved him.

I told Yuki (that) I was sorry.

Exception: tell + (joke/story/lie/truth)

He told a joke. She tells good stories.

They told a lie. I always tell the truth.

## SAY

### Collocations

## TELL

**Say** hello / goodbye /  
good morning / good night

**Say** yes / no

**Say** something / nothing

**Say** thank you / you are welcome

**Say** a prayer

**Say** a word / a few words

**Tell** the truth / a lie

**Tell** a story / a tale

**Tell** a joke

**Tell** a secret

**Tell** the time / the future

**Tell** the difference

**1** Complete the sentences.

- 1 Don't leave until you have said .....
- 2 When someone has done something for you, you should say .....
- 3 When you have hurt someone, you can make it better by saying .....
- 4 When you say what you're thinking so that people can hear, you say .....
- 5 If someone didn't hear you, it helps to say .....

**2** Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of *tell* and the words in the box.

a lie   a joke   a secret   the truth   off   the difference

- 1 My friend told me a joke yesterday – it was very funny, but now I can't remember it!
- 2 One day when I was little, I ..... my parents ..... and they were very angry.
- 3 Can you ..... between an American accent and a British accent?
- 4 My teacher was so angry with me. She really ..... me .....
- 5 He says he's won medals for tennis, but I don't think he's .....
- 6 I'm going to ..... you ..... Do you promise not to tell anyone else?

**3) Choose the correct option in each case.**

- 1 Someone's body language says / tells you how they are feeling.
- 2 When someone crosses their arms, it says / tells us they want to protect themselves.
- 3 About 90% of what we say / tell isn't spoken. We communicate a lot through body language.
- 4 Can you say / tell me what this means?
- 5 I can't say / tell the difference between the old version and the new one.
- 6 If something is bothering you, please say / tell it.
- 7 He's only four years old but he can already say / tell the time.
- 8 Can I say / tell you a secret, if you promise to keep it to yourself?
- 9 I hope you're not saying / telling me a lie. You'll be in trouble, if you are.
- 10 You've said / told me that joke before. Don't you know any others?

### Past simple vs. present perfect simple

- 1 We use the past simple to talk about complete events which are finished, or before 'now', the moment of speaking.  
*I called you yesterday. Where **were** you?*  
*We **didn't have** computers when I **was** born.*
- 2 We use the present perfect simple to connect the past and 'now', the moment of speaking.  
*We've called you three times today. Where **have** you **been**?*  
*We've lived in the same house all our lives.*
- 3 Use the past simple with *minutes ago, yesterday, last week, when I was ...* etc.  
We often use *for, since, just, already, yet, ever* and *never* with the present perfect.  
*They **went** out a few minutes **ago**.*                      *They've just **left**.*  
*I **saw** that film **yesterday**.*                      *I've **already seen** that film.*  
*I **met** her boyfriend **last weekend**.*                      *I've **never met** your girlfriend.*  
*We **moved** there **when I was young**.*                      *We've **lived** there **since I was a child**.*

### Time expressions

- 1 We use *just* before the past participle to say that something happened a short time ago.  
*We've just arrived.*                      *They've just gone out.*
- 2 We use *already* at the end of the sentence or before the past participle to express surprise or emphasise that something happened.  
*Have you finished already?*                      *We've already seen this film.*
- 3 We use *yet* at the end of negative sentences to emphasise that something didn't happen (but probably will in the future), and at the end of questions.  
*I haven't started this exercise yet. (but I will)*                      *Have you met my new boyfriend yet?*
- 4 We use *still* before *haven't* in negative sentences, or before *not* in questions, to show surprise that something you expected to happen didn't happen.  
*I can't believe you still haven't said sorry.*                      *Has she still not told you the truth?*

### 4 Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the past simple or present perfect simple.

- 1 I 've never had (never have) a surprise party.
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) school last June.
- 3 I still \_\_\_\_\_ (not send) an email to Dave.  
I'll do it now.
- 4 How long \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) that piercing? It looks new.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema last night?

5 Choose the correct answer: a, b or c.

- 1 I've ..... made a terrible mistake.  
a yet   b ever   c just
- 2 She ..... seen her boyfriend all week.  
a never   b didn't   c hasn't
- 3 You haven't ..... sorry for shouting at me.  
a say   b saying   c said
- 4 Wait! I haven't had breakfast .....  
a still   b ago   c yet
- 5 How long ..... you wait for me last night?  
a did   b have   c do
- 6 My birthday was three days .....  
a ago   b just   c last
- 7 My brother and sister ..... bought me  
a present for my birthday.  
a didn't yet   b has never   c still haven't