



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 told my parents the truth and they were very angry.
- 3 Can you see the difference between an American accent and a British accent?
- 4 My teacher was so angry with me. She really told me off.
- 5 He says he's won medals for tennis, but I don't think he's telling the truth.
- 6 I'm going to tell you a secret. 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.

<i>They went out a few minutes ago.</i>	<i>They've just left.</i>
<i>I saw that film yesterday.</i>	<i>I've already seen that film.</i>
<i>I met her boyfriend last weekend.</i>	<i>I've never met your girlfriend.</i>
<i>We moved there when I was young.</i>	<i>We've lived there since I was a child.</i>

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 didn't yet b has never c still haven't