

### 3 VOCABULARY *say or tell?*

Complete the sentences with the right form of *say* or *tell*.

- 1 "I have a problem," Annie \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Annie \_\_\_\_\_ us that she had a problem.
- 3 Lisa \_\_\_\_\_ that she was leaving her husband.
- 4 He \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher that he had left his homework at home.
- 5 His teacher \_\_\_\_\_ that he didn't believe him.
- 6 Can you \_\_\_\_\_ Mark that I can't meet him tonight?
- 7 What did you \_\_\_\_\_ to her?
- 8 When I was a child, my mother used to \_\_\_\_\_ us not to \_\_\_\_\_ hello to people we didn't know.

### 6 READING

## HERE'S A SECRET: Gossip might be good for you

We all enjoy gossiping about people we know, although sometimes we might **feel guilty** about it afterward. However, new research shows that gossiping might be good for us.

Professor McAndrew, a professor of psychology, believes that gossiping is in our genes, and we feel pleasure when we **share** interesting information. McAndrew says that gossiping is a **social skill**, and we need to learn to do it well. According to the professor, gossip can be a positive thing when people use it to build connections with other people in their social group. But it can be a negative thing when somebody gossips about another person only to make themselves feel more important in the group.

Professor McAndrew's research also showed that people were happy to **pass on** good news but only if it was about a friend. They also enjoyed passing on negative information about other people when it was about somebody they disliked.

Another thing that the new study showed was that men and women gossip differently. **In general**, the men in the study shared gossip with their wives or girlfriends, but not with their male friends. Women however, gossiped with both partners and friends.

Adapted from a newspaper

- a Read the article and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- |                                                              |      |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| 1 We sometimes feel bad after we gossip.                     | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2 Professor McAndrew says that we are programmed to gossip.  | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3 Gossiping can be good or bad – it depends on why we do it. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4 People enjoy sharing bad news about people they like.      | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5 Men gossip with their friends more than with their family. | TRUE | FALSE |

- b Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases. With a partner, guess their meaning.

- c Do you agree with what the article says about the way men and women gossip?