

# Say vs. Tell - Practice Worksheet

Classroom ESL Blog | Grammar Usage | Level: Intermediate (B1)

*Learning Objective: Learn when to use "say" and "tell" in everyday English.*

## Exercise 1: Fill in the blank

Choose either "say" or "tell" to complete each sentence. Remember: we "tell" someone something, but we just "say" something!

1. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me where the library is?
2. My friend \_\_\_\_\_ she loves studying English.
3. The doctor \_\_\_\_\_ me to take these pills twice a day.
4. He always \_\_\_\_\_ "thank you" after getting help.
5. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ the students to do their homework.
6. She \_\_\_\_\_ goodbye and left the room.
7. Could you \_\_\_\_\_ John I'll be late?
8. The announcement \_\_\_\_\_ that the store is closing.
9. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ me not to be late.
10. He didn't \_\_\_\_\_ anything during the meeting.

## Exercise 2: Correct the Mistakes

Some of these sentences have mistakes with "say" and "tell." Fix the ones that are wrong.

1. He said me the directions to the station.

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2. The teacher told, "Open your books."

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3. She told him she was tired.

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4. My friend said me she couldn't come.

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5. They told us to wait here.

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## Exercise 3: Real-Life Situations

Write your own sentences using "say" and "tell" for each situation:

1. At a restaurant (ordering food):

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2. In class (asking for permission):

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3. At home (talking to family):

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4. On the phone (ending a conversation):

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5. At work/school (giving instructions):

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## Exercise 4: Reported Speech Practice

Change these direct quotes to reported speech using "say" or "tell":

1. Direct: "I'm going to the store."

Reported: She \_\_\_\_\_

2. Direct: "Please finish your homework."

Reported: The teacher \_\_\_\_\_

3. Direct: "Don't forget your keys!"

Reported: My mom \_\_\_\_\_

4. Direct: "The meeting starts at 9."

Reported: The boss \_\_\_\_\_

5. Direct: "I can't come to the party."

Reported: John \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### Exercise 1:

1. tell
2. said
3. told
4. says
5. told
6. said
7. tell
8. said
9. told
10. said

### Exercise 2:

1. Correct: He told me the directions to the station.
2. Correct: The teacher said, "Open your books."
3. Correct (no change needed)
4. Correct: My friend told me she couldn't come.
5. Correct (no change needed)

Note: Exercises 3 and 4 have multiple possible correct answers. Check with your teacher.