

Say - Tell

We can use the verbs **say** and **tell** both in direct and reported speech.

- ◆ **Say** is used with or without a personal object. When used with a personal object, it is always followed by the preposition **to** (said to me).

e.g. He **said**, 'I'm cold.'

He **said** (that) he was cold.

He **said to me**, 'I'm cold.'

He **said to me** (that) he was cold.

- ◆ **Tell** is always followed by a personal object (told me). e.g. He **told me**, 'I'm cold.'

He **told me** (that) he was cold.

Expressions with **say** and **tell**:

say good morning/afternoon etc, something/nothing etc, a prayer, so, a few words, etc.

tell the truth, a lie, a secret, a story, a joke, the time, the difference, sb one's name, sb the way, one from another, one's fortune, sb so, etc.

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Fill in the gaps with **say** or **tell** in the correct tense.

- A 'This sugar-free chocolate is delicious', 1) *said*... Sandra. 'I can't 2) the difference between this chocolate and the one containing sugar.' 'I like it, too', 3) Mark. 'I wish someone had 4) me about it sooner. I could have lost so much weight!' 'To 5) you the truth, I don't think you should lose weight,' 6) Sandra. 'I like you just the way you are,' she 7) him.
- B 'I saw Paul in town today', Steve 1) Louise. 'I 2) good afternoon to him and I noticed that he'd had his hair cut. I should have 3) something about it, but it looked awful, so I didn't mention it'. 'You did the right thing', Louise 4) him. 'It's better to 5) nothing than to 6) a lie.'
- C At Alison's wedding reception, her father stood up and 1) the guests that he would like to 2) a few words. He started to 3) a story about when Alison was young. Alison felt embarrassed, but she didn't 4) so. Then, her father 5) the guests some jokes, which everyone found very funny. Finally, he 6) a prayer for the happy couple.