

Verbs: Say and Tell

Both “**say / tell**” are used to repeat what someone else said.

TELL must be followed by a direct object. A direct object is a word or words that answer the question: “ Who? / What?” The direct object after “tell” will always be the audience or person/people listening.

Ex. He told me that I should close the door.

SAY Since “tell” is used with a direct object only, “say” is used in ALL other sentences which repeat what someone else said.

Ex. He said, “You should close the door.” He said that I should close the door. He said to me that I should close the door.

Idioms: Tell a story, tell a lie, tell the truth, tell a secret, tell the time, tell a joke, etc.

Use the correct form of “**SAY** and “**TELL**” in the following sentences.

1. Margaret _____ that she could not go to the theatre on Wednesday.
2. Did Helen _____ what time she would arrive in New York?
3. Mike _____ Joan that we would play golf with her on Friday.
4. John _____, “I am not feeling well today.”
5. Tom _____ me all about his trip to Korea and I _____ that I may go there next year.
6. The little girl asked her mother to _____ her a story.
7. It was Jean who _____ us that the restaurant was closed.
8. Maureen _____ that the exhibition was excellent.
9. “What time is it?” “It is 3 o’clock” _____ Jim.
10. Marc _____ us that Mr. Simon was a former police officer.
11. Joanne _____ that she would like to compete in a swimming meet.

Beginner 2 – Exercise 41 – Verbs: Say and Tell

12. Can you _____ me how I could reach the football stadium?
13. Francine _____, “I didn’t like the movie last night.”
14. “Will you please carry this tray for me? It is too heavy”, _____ Mrs. Dale.
15. Ray _____ Bernice that he was tired of working in the same department as John.
16. Mary _____ that she was very sore from jogging.
17. “Please _____ Mr. Williams that we have arrived” _____ Andy.
18. Allan _____ a lie and was caught. Now he promises to _____ the truth.
19. Tina _____ that she was going to go to Hawaii for two weeks.
20. Maria _____ Kevin that she could not finish her work on time.
21. David _____ his girlfriend a lie, and she broke up with him.
22. The Smiths’ _____ us all about their European vacation. They _____ that the trip was very interesting and memorable.
23. I don’t want to go out with him tonight. If I _____ him the truth, he will be hurt; but if I _____ him a lie, I won’t feel right. What should I do?
24. Can you _____ me how I can get to Union Station?
25. Harold _____ that the book belonged to Stacey.
26. Please _____ me about the movie you saw last night. Kathy _____ that she liked it very much.
27. My sister _____ us that she was too busy to go with us after school.
28. Carla _____ to me, “It is necessary to write all your answers down.”
29. _____ me just what you _____ to the new client. He _____ that he only wanted you to work on his account.
30. Paolo _____ me all about the seminar. He _____ that it was very useful , but it was also tiring.