

REPORTED SPEECH

When we want to report or tell what someone else has said, we have to use the past tense of the verbs “**to tell**” and “**to say**”. When we use the verb “**to tell**”, we use an object pronoun right after the verb in past tense (me-you-him-her-it-us-them).

Examples:

She **told** me the good news.

They **told** me the meeting was canceled.

We **told** them that the party starts at 7:00P.M.

I **told** her that I was in love with her.

She **told** me that she was in love with me also.

When we use the verb “**to say**” we use “**to**” right after the verb.

Examples:

She **said to** me that she wasn’t coming to work.

They **said to** her that her boyfriend was seeing another woman.

He **said to** me that he lost a lot of money.

I **said to** her that she should go out more often.

When we report possible future action we use the word “**that**” after the verbs “**to tell**” or “**to say**” and we have to use “**would**” or “**would not**” to put the idea in the past.

Examples:

She **told** me that she would go to the movies.

He **told** her that he would be late.

They **said to** me that they would be at the beach.

She **said to** me that she would go to the concert.

She **told** me that she wouldn’t go to the party.

He **told** her that he wouldn’t be late.

They **said to** me that they wouldn’t play golf this weekend.

Note: We use the verb “to tell” for the following only.

TO TELL

	Lies
	The truth
	Jokes
	Time
	Stories

Examples:

Please, don’t **tell** me lies.

Please, **tell** me the truth.

She can really **tell** the best jokes.

Can you please **tell** me the time?

My dad used to **tell** me the best stories when I was a kid.



Use the phrases, “**told me that**” or “**said that**” to report what someone else said or told you. Keep in mind that you are the one reporting in this exercise.

1. **Peter:** I want to go to Mexico on my next vacation.

2. **Sheila:** I work too many hours.

3. **Your mom:** do your homework immediately.

4. **Your father:** go to the store and buy some milk.

5. **The Teacher:** There is no school tomorrow.

6. **Mark:** I am going to the movies with my girlfriend.

7. **Joe:** I want to take a long vacation.

8. **Your neighbor:** I want to move to a new apartment.

9. **Your classmate:** I always study for the final exams.

10. **Charlie:** I am really tired of the weather.



Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb “to tell” or “to say” according to the context of the sentences.

1. Can you _____ how to get to the train station, please?
2. Don't worry, we didn't _____ a word.
3. Honest people never _____ lies.
4. Everything she _____ to you at the meeting yesterday was right.
5. Please forgive me, I didn't mean to _____ that.
6. Excuse me! What did you just _____ ?
7. What did she _____ when she heard the bad news?
8. She _____ she is from California.
9. Excuse me, what does the sign _____ ? I can't read it from here.
10. If you knew what happened, why didn't you _____ something?
11. Your friend Richard is very funny, he always _____ hilarious jokes.
12. During the state of the union speech yesterday, the president _____ that the economy will recover this year.
13. I met my friend Rita yesterday and she _____ to me that she is moving that she is moving out of her apartment at the end of this month.
14. My uncle _____ us a very scary story before we went to bed.
15. People _____ that an apple a day keeps the doctor away.
16. Peter _____ me that our boss resigned yesterday.
17. Could you _____ me the time, please?
18. I will forgive you only if you _____ me the truth.
19. My friend always _____ he is ready to take the road test to get his license, but he never does it.
20. I _____ you not to do that! You are in trouble now.