

SAY - TELL - SPEAK - TALK

- Use 'say' for direct quotations:

She said, 'I am very busy.'

Use 'say' for indirect quotations when the person to whom the words are spoken is not mentioned:

She said that she was very busy.

- Use 'tell' for indirect quotations when the person to whom the words are spoken is mentioned: *She told me that she was very busy.*

- 'Speak' is used with languages, and in formal settings:

He speaks three languages fluently.

- 'Talk' refers to a conversation and is often followed by an indirect object with 'TO':

After the lecture, coffee was served and people began to talk to one another.

- 1) Brazilians _____ Portuguese.
- 2) Yesterday the teacher _____ me that our children _____ too much.
- 3) _____ louder, please. I can't hear what you _____.
- 4) The Prime Minister _____ on television last night.
- 5) Chimpanzees cannot _____ but everybody _____ they are very intelligent.
- 6) What will you _____ when you _____ to Mr Reed tomorrow?
- 7) [on the telephone]... 'May I _____ to Mrs Brown please?'
- 8) The policeman _____ me to show him my driving licence.
- 9) Don't _____ during the film. If you want to _____ to me, wait until it's over.
- 10) His throat disease has left him unable to _____.
- 11) If you promise not to _____ anyone, I'll _____ you a secret.
- 12) She always _____ the children a story before they go to bed.
- 13) The little boy doesn't know how to _____ the time yet.
- 14) If you _____ so, I suppose it's true. I don't think you would _____ me a lie.
- 15) He left without _____ goodbye
- 16) If you could _____ a good word for him, he might get the job.
- 17) She _____ that she can't _____ the difference between butter and margarine.
- 18) To _____ the truth, I haven't been there long.
- 19) Please _____ no more about it.
- 20) They asked the prisoner several questions, but he _____ nothing.
- 21) Please _____ up. I can't make out what you are _____.
- 22) I slept in and got _____ off by the boss.
- 23) Do you think I should _____ the matter over with my parents?
- 24) Don't _____ back when you're being reprimanded!
- 25) Many politicians are _____ rubbish all the time.
- 26) I'll _____ you what: I'll get the tickets and we can meet at the pub, all right?
- 27) Who _____ you that joke?
- 28) Sorry, what did you _____ ?