verbsprint.

Name _____
Date _____

Say vs tell · Worksheet 1

Write one word: the correct form of say or tell. Words like yesterday and last night tell you to use the past.

REMEMBER

- Tell + person: tell me, tell her, tell the teacher. We tell someone something
- Say + words, with no person after it: say that..., say something. Never “say me”
- To name the person after say, add “to”: say something to someone
- Fixed phrases with say: say hello, say goodbye, say sorry, say thank you, say yes, say no, say a word
- Fixed phrases with tell: tell the truth, tell a lie, tell a story, tell a joke, tell the time, tell the difference

1. Last night she _____ me that she was tired.
2. An hour ago, he _____ that he was hungry.
3. What did the teacher _____ to you after class?
4. Don’t forget to _____ thank you.
5. You should always _____ the truth.
6. The doctor _____ me to rest for a week when I saw her yesterday.
7. Can you _____ me your name, please?
8. What did you _____? I didn’t hear you.
9. She _____ “good morning” to everyone when she arrived yesterday.
10. He left without _____ goodbye.
11. It is wrong to _____ lies.
12. Please _____ the children to be quiet.
13. He _____ us about his trip last night.
14. Yesterday she _____ she would call me later.
15. I have something to _____ to you.
16. I want to _____ sorry for being late.
17. My grandfather likes to _____ stories about his childhood.
18. My mother always wants to _____ me to clean my room.
19. Please _____ her that I called.
20. What does the sign _____?

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Say vs tell · Worksheet 1 · Answer key

Each answer includes the rule behind it.

1. Last night she told me that she was tired.
Tell + person: tell me, tell her, tell the teacher. We tell someone something

2. An hour ago, he said that he was hungry.
Say + words, with no person after it: say that..., say something. Never “say me”

3. What did the teacher say to you after class?
To name the person after say, add “to”: say something to someone

4. Don’t forget to say thank you.
Fixed phrases with say: say hello, say goodbye, say sorry, say thank you, say yes, say no, say a word

5. You should always tell the truth.
Fixed phrases with tell: tell the truth, tell a lie, tell a story, tell a joke, tell the time, tell the difference

6. The doctor told me to rest for a week when I saw her yesterday.
Orders and instructions: tell + person + to + verb: tell him to wait

7. Can you tell me your name, please?
Tell + person: tell me, tell her, tell the teacher. We tell someone something

8. What did you say? I didn’t hear you.
Say + words, with no person after it: say that..., say something. Never “say me”

9. She said “good morning” to everyone when she arrived yesterday.
To name the person after say, add “to”: say something to someone

10. He left without saying goodbye.
Fixed phrases with say: say hello, say goodbye, say sorry, say thank you, say yes, say no, say a word

11. It is wrong to tell lies.
Fixed phrases with tell: tell the truth, tell a lie, tell a story, tell a joke, tell the time, tell the difference

12. Please tell the children to be quiet.
Orders and instructions: tell + person + to + verb: tell him to wait

13. He told us about his trip last night.
Tell + person: tell me, tell her, tell the teacher. We tell someone something

14. Yesterday she said she would call me later.
Say + words, with no person after it: say that..., say something. Never “say me”

15. I have something to say to you.
To name the person after say, add “to”: say something to someone

16. I want to say sorry for being late.
Fixed phrases with say: say hello, say goodbye, say sorry, say thank you, say yes, say no, say a word

17. My grandfather likes to tell stories about his childhood.
Fixed phrases with tell: tell the truth, tell a lie, tell a story, tell a joke, tell the time, tell the difference

18. My mother always wants to tell me to clean my room.
Orders and instructions: tell + person + to + verb: tell him to wait

19. Please tell her that I called.
Tell + person: tell me, tell her, tell the teacher. We tell someone something

20. What does the sign say?
Say + words, with no person after it: say that..., say something. Never “say me”

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