70 Telling things to people

You can use both "say" and "tell" in reported speech. The meaning is the same, but using "tell" allows you to specify who someone was talking to.

⚙ **New language** Reported speech with "tell"
Aa **Vocabulary** Collocations with "say" and "tell"
🧩 **New skill** Talking about truth and lies

70.1 KEY LANGUAGE "SAY" AND "TELL" IN REPORTED SPEECH

In reported speech, you can say who someone is talking to when you use "tell" as the main verb. "Tell" must be followed by an object.

I want to learn to drive.

With "say," you do not need an object to show who someone is talking to.

He { said / told me } that he wanted to learn to drive.

In reported speech, you must put an object after "tell" to show who someone is talking to.

70.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES "SAY" AND "TELL" IN REPORTED SPEECH

She said that she could come to the party.

She told me that she had a very stressful job.

He said he would be late to the meeting.

You can leave out "that" in reported speech with "said."

They told us they were buying a new house.

You can also leave out "that" in reported speech with "told."

70.3 ⚠ COMMON MISTAKES "SAY" AND "TELL" IN REPORTED SPEECH

He **said** that he had a fast car. ✅

He said me that he had a fast car. ❌

"Said" cannot have an object.

He **told me** that he had a fast car. ✅

He told that he had a fast car. ❌

"Told" must have an object.

70.4 FILL IN THE GAPS BY ADDING "SAID" OR "TOLD"

She _____said_____ she enjoyed meeting people.

1 They _____ us they had a new car.

2 He _____ me he had gotten married.

3 You _____ he was at a birthday party.

4 She _____ she wanted some ice cream.

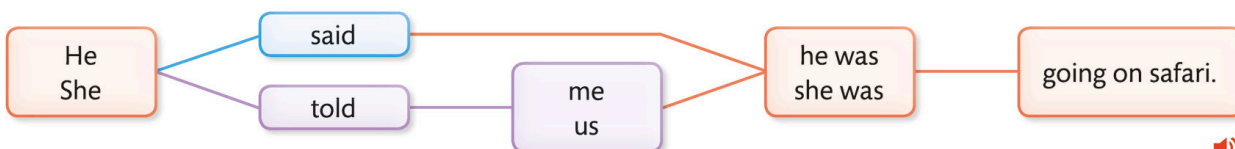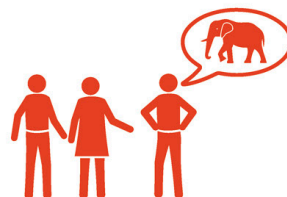5 We _____ her the train was delayed.

6 You _____ you would cook tonight.

7 I _____ him I had to work late.

70.5 USE THE CHART TO CREATE 12 CORRECT SENTENCES AND SAY THEM OUT LOUD

He said he was going on safari.

He She	said			he was she was	going on safari.
	told	me us			

70.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Grace has been on a date.
She tells her friend Robyn about it.

Grace believed that her date was 30.
True ☐ **False** ☐ **Not given** ☑

1 Grace's date told her he hated gardening.
True ☐ **False** ☐ **Not given** ☐

2 Grace wanted to have dinner with her date.
True ☐ **False** ☐ **Not given** ☐

3 Grace's date said he had a fast car.
True ☐ **False** ☐ **Not given** ☐

4 Robyn said Grace's date was telling the truth.
True ☐ **False** ☐ **Not given** ☐

5 Grace told Carla her date was too young.
True ☐ **False** ☐ **Not given** ☐

70.7 KEY LANGUAGE TIME AND PLACE REFERENCES

If you report speech some time after it was said, you might need to use different words to talk about times and places.

The time reference is "yesterday" in direct speech.

I went to work yesterday.
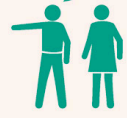
She said she'd been to work the day before.

The time reference is "the day before" in reported speech.

APRIL 25   APRIL 26   APRIL 27

70.8 MATCH THE SENTENCES IN DIRECT SPEECH WITH THEIR EQUIVALENTS IN REPORTED SPEECH

I'll call you tomorrow.

1 The weather is nice here.

2 We'll have a party this weekend.

3 I saw you last week.

4 I'm starting a new job today.

She said she'd seen me the week before.

You told her you were starting a new job that day.

She told me the weather was nice there.

He said he'd call me the following day.

They said they'd have a party that weekend.

70.9 REWRITE THE SENTENCES USING REPORTED SPEECH

I'll finish the report tomorrow.	=	He said _he'd finish the report the following day._
1 I bought a new car yesterday.	=	She told me _____
2 Regina is leaving the company today.	=	They said _____
3 There are lots of restaurants here.	=	She said _____
4 I'm going to a party this weekend.	=	He told us _____
5 We sold our apartment last week.	=	They told me _____

70.10 READ THE ARTICLE AND MARK THE CORRECT SUMMARY

YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

When is it OK to tell lies?

We know it's wrong to tell lies, but sometimes we don't tell the truth for good reasons. Given the choice of saying something nice but untrue, saying nothing, or telling someone a truth that's hurtful, what do you do?

To avoid conflict, people often say yes when they should say no, or just say anything that comes into their heads as long as it keeps them out of trouble. We also often believe that people are being honest, just because they say so.

We gave 50 people a questionnaire to complete. Of the people we asked, 10 percent said they lie about their age and think people can't tell the difference. Eighty percent think it's OK to tell a "white lie" to avoid hurting someone. As many as 58 percent think it's OK to tell a "story" to hide something they did wrong. Ten percent said they didn't tell lies at all. Do you believe them?

1 We all know it's fine to tell lies, because we often have to. In a tricky situation, the only choices we have are not to say anything at all or say something nice but untrue. ☐

2 Although we know it's wrong to lie, 80 percent of the people interviewed said it's OK to lie in order to be kind to someone. More than 50 percent said it was OK to lie about something they'd done wrong. ☐

3 These days, very few people say yes when they mean no. What's more, over 85 percent of people believe that everyone knows when we are lying about our age. ☐

4 Most people believe that we should always be honest, and not tell lies at all. ☐

Aa 70.11 WRITE THE WORDS FROM THE PANEL IN THE CORRECT GROUPS

COLLOCATIONS WITH "SAY"	
something	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

COLLOCATIONS WITH "TELL"	
the truth	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

lies	anything	yes	~~something~~	a story	the difference
someone	nothing	a "white lie"	no	~~the truth~~	so

🔊

70 ✓ **CHECKLIST**

⚙ Reported speech with "tell" ☐   **Aa** Collocations with "say" and "tell" ☐   🧩 Talking about truth and lies ☐