

Say or Tell?

Although **Say** and **Tell** both mean to communicate orally with someone, they are used in a different way.

We say **something**. (No personal object)

We "Tell" **someone something**. (Personal object)



I didn't say anything!



I'm going to tell you a secret



"Use Say"

We can use say with direct questions.



Amy **said**: "Do you want to come to my house?"

If we want to put a personal object after "say", we have to use the word "to".

Bob **said to me** that he wanted to go to the party!



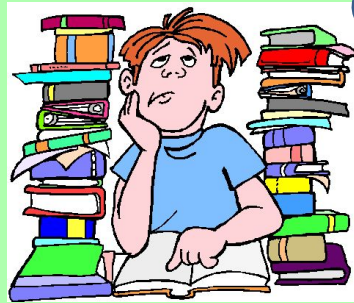
Expressions where "say"
is used:

- ❖ Say hello
- ❖ Say goodbye
- ❖ Say thanks
- ❖ Say yes
- ❖ Say no
- ❖ Say a prayer

"Use of Tell"

To give orders or advice.

Tell + object + infinitive



The teacher **told**
me to study for my
test.

My mom **told me I**
shouldn't eat junk
food.



To give or ask for information.



Could you **tell**
me **how** to go
downtown?

Expressions where "tell" is used:

- ❖ tell (someone) a story
- ❖ tell (someone) a lie
- ❖ tell (someone) the truth
- ❖ tell the future
- ❖ tell the time
- ❖ tell a joke