

17a Say something!

Overview

Students learn the difference between *say*, *tell*, *speak*, *talk* and *discuss*, and some common expressions with *say*, *tell*, *talk*, *speak* and *give*. They practise the verbs by completing sentences and questions and then use the questions to talk about their own experiences.

Preparation

One copy of the worksheet for each student.

Procedure

- 1 Write *Can you say me the time?* and *He told that it was a very good idea* on the board. Ask the students to tell you what is wrong with each of these sentences (see notes in answer key).
- 2 Divide the class into pairs and give each student a copy of the worksheet. Ask students to choose the correct verb in sentences a–f in exercise 1. Then check the answers with the class and have a class discussion about the verbs (see notes in answer key). Students then complete sentences g–l. Check the answers with the class.
- 3 Focus students' attention on the expressions with the verbs in the speech bubbles in exercise 2. Explain any unfamiliar vocabulary.
- 4 Ask students to fold back the worksheet so that they cannot see the phrases at the top and then, in pairs, complete exercise 3. Students then discuss the questions. Monitor, helping with vocabulary as necessary.
- 5 Check the answers with the class.

Answers

Exercise 1

a told b said c talked d discussed e speak/talk
f speak/talk g said h spoke/talked i discuss
j speak/talk k told l talking

Say and *tell* are basically the same in meaning, but grammatically they are different. *Tell* must be followed by a person as a direct object: to tell *someone* something. *Say* does not have a direct object: to say something (*to* someone), e.g. *He told me that I should wait* (or *He told me to wait*). *He said that I should wait* (or *He said to me that I should wait*).

Talk about and *discuss* are basically the same in meaning, but *discuss* does not need *about* or any preposition after it.

Speak and *talk* are basically the same in meaning and grammatically – to speak or talk to someone about something is also the same.

Exercise 3

a give b speak c told d telling e say f talk g speak