17a Say something!

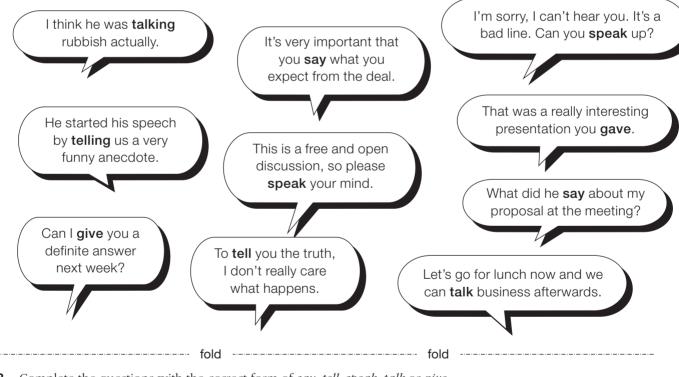
Paul Dummett

- Do you know the difference between say, tell, talk, speak and discuss? Circle the best verb to complete each sentence. Sometimes both verbs are possible.
 - **a** He (said/told) me that he couldn't attend the meeting.
 - **b** He (said/told) that he was sorry for his mistake.
 - **c** We (talked/discussed) about the situation in Japan.
 - **d** We (talked/discussed) the new marketing plan.
 - e Did she (speak/talk) to you about the reorganisation plans?
 - f Did she (speak/talk) about the cost of the project?

When you have checked your answers, work with a partner and discuss the meanings and grammatical rules for the verbs. Then complete these sentences with the correct form of say, tell, speak, talk or discuss.

g	Where is she? She she would be here half an hour ago.
h	I phoned your office and to your assistant.
i	Do you have a free moment to the Zurich deal?
j	I'll for about half an hour and then answer your questions
k	I him that he would have to wait for an answer.
1	I'm sorry, I don't understand. What are you about?

Work with a partner. Look at the following expressions and check their meaning.



Complete the questions with the correct form of say, tell, speak, talk or give. Then discuss the questions with your partner.

a	Do you get	nervous v	vhen you	have to	 a speech in	public?

- **b** How many languages do you ___
- **c** Have you ever _____ a lie to get a job?
- **d** Are you good at ______ jokes?
- e Do you find it difficult to ______ 'no' to people when they ask for help?
- **f** Do you prefer to _____ business on the phone or face-to-face?
- **g** Are you the kind of person who likes to _____ your mind?