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| | Uses | Examples |
|-------|---|---|
| Say | <p>used with direct and indirect speech</p> <p>Say is most often used without a personal object.</p> <p>If we want to put a personal object after say, we use <i>to</i>.</p> | <p>She said that it was my last chance.</p> <p>He said, 'Good morning.'</p> <p>She said that she would be late. (not She said me...)</p> <p>And I say to all the people of this great country...</p> |
| Tell | <p>used with direct and indirect speech</p> <p>after tell, we usually say who is told, i.e., tell someone something</p> <p>only used to mean 'instruct' or 'inform'</p> <p>Tell is used to tell someone to do something</p> <p><i>Tell</i> is not used before objects like <i>a word, a name, a sentence, a phrase</i>.</p> <p>We do not usually use it after tell to refer to a fact.</p> <p>tell someone again (repeat)</p> | <p>She told me that she would be late.</p> <p>She told me that it was my last chance.</p> <p>(not He told them, 'Good-morning.')</p> <p>Tom's mother told him to clean his room.</p> <p>Alice said a naughty word...</p> <p>(not Alice told a naughty word...)</p> <p>'I'll tell you tomorrow.' (not I'll tell you it tomorrow.)</p> <p>'I don't want to tell you again to get your homework done.'</p> |
| Talk | <p>There is not very much difference between <i>speak</i> and <i>talk</i>.</p> <p>Talk is the more usual word to refer to conversational exchanges and informal communication.</p> | <p>When she walked into the room everybody stopped talking.</p> |
| Speak | <p>is often used for one-way communication and for exchanges in more serious or formal situations.</p> <p>Speak is the usual word to refer to knowledge and use of languages.</p> | <p>I'll have to speak to that boy -- he's getting very lazy.</p> <p>After she had finished reading the letter, nobody spoke.</p> <p>She speaks three languages fluently.</p> |

some of the information in this document is from a source written by: Mary Nell Sorensen
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NOW PRACTICE:

1. As I in the last class, my favorite things are music and art.
 2. Some Americans very fast.
 3. The Matthew's daughter is learning to English well.
 4. Mr. Clark to us about Valentine's Day.
 5. It's difficult to understand what is on TV.
 6. Mr. Clark us about Valentine's Day.
 7. I would like to to you.
 8. I would like to you something.
 9. I would like to something to you.
 10. Mr. Clark that Valentine's Day is February 14th.
 11. It's difficult to understand children when they to each other.
 12. Mr. Clark us to watch a special program.
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(POSSIBLE ANSWERS)

1. As I **said to you / told you** in the last class, my favorite things are ..
2. Some Americans **say things / speak / speak English / talk / tell stories** very fast.
3. The Matthews' daughter is learning to **speak** English well.
4. Mr. Clark **said something / talked / spoke / told a story** to us about Valentine's Day.
5. It's difficult to understand what is **said** on TV.
6. Mr. Clark **said something to / spoke to / talked to / told a story to / told** us about Valentines' Day.
7. I would like to **say something / say "good=bye" / speak English / talk / tell a story** to you.
8. I would like to **tell** you something.
9. I would like to **say** something to you.
10. Mr. Clark **said / told us** that Valentine's Day is February 14th.
11. It's difficult to understand children when they **say something / speak / speak English / talk** to each other.
12. Mr. Clark **told** us to watch a special program.

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