



- A: How was your journey
 B: Terrible! The police stopped me!
 A: Why? What happened?
 B: I told someone that I was looking for King Street. She said that King Street was on the left.
 A: And was it?
 B: Yes, but a police officer told me I'd driven the wrong way down a one-way street.

Presentation

We use *say* and *tell* to report a person's words. We normally use *say* and *tell* in the past simple (*said* and *told*).

tell/told

With *tell/told*, use an object before the reported speech:

I told someone that I was looking for King Street.
 ('I'm looking for King Street.')

He told me I'd driven the wrong way down a one-way street.
 ('You've driven the wrong way down a one-way street.')

say/said

With *say/said*, do not use an object before the reported speech:

She said me that King Street was on the left. ('King Street is on the left.')

I said the police officer I couldn't turn the car around.
 ('I can't turn the car around.')

that

After *say* and *tell* we can use *that*, but it is not necessary.

I told someone (that) I was looking for King Street.

She said (that) King Street was on the left.

Exercises

1 Complete the sentences with *say* or *tell*.

- 1 My dentist me I had good teeth!
- 2 You that you weren't coming to my party.
- 3 The train driver the passengers that the train wasn't stopping in Brighton.
- 4 Arnold he'd passed his exams!
- 5 My boss me he was leaving the company.
- 6 Your teacher you'd missed three lessons this term.
- 7 The police officer everyone to move out of the way.
- 8 No one we were meeting tonight. We're meeting tomorrow.
- 9 Who that classes were cancelled today? They aren't!
- 10 Who you that I was angry with you? I'm not!

- 2 Look at the words of a visitor and a receptionist. Then complete the reported speech using *said* or *told* and the correct verb form.



- 1 I the receptionist I there to see Mrs Sykes.
 - 2 I that I an appointment with her at one o'clock.
 - 3 She that I wait in reception.
 - 4 She Mrs Sykes that I for her in reception.
 - 5 She me that Mrs Sykes down in two minutes.
- 3 Write the direct speech as reported speech using the words in brackets.

- 1 'This is my house.' (he / say)
He said (that) this was his house.
- 2 'I'm applying for the job.' (she / tell / me)
.....
- 3 'It's true!' (I / say)
.....
- 4 'Lunch will be at two.' (Gabi / tell / us)
.....
- 5 'You can get a coffee from the machine.' (he / tell / us)
.....
- 6 'You're driving too fast!' (my father / tell / me)
.....
- 7 'I'll call you back later.' (Rita / say)
.....
- 8 'I studied at Harvard University in 1959.' (The grandfather / tell / his grandchildren)
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