SAY - TELL - SPEAK - TALK

• Use ‘say’ for direct quotations:
  
  She said, ‘I am very busy.’

Use ‘say’ for indirect quotations when the person to whom the words are spoken is not mentioned:

  She said that she was very busy.

• Use ‘tell’ for indirect quotations when the person to whom the words are spoken is mentioned:

  She told me that she was very busy.

• ‘Speak’ is used with languages, and in formal settings:

  He speaks three languages fluently.

• ‘Talk’ refers to a conversation and is often followed by an indirect object with ‘TO’:

  After the lecture, coffee was served and people began to talk to one another.

1) Brazilians _____________ Portuguese.
2) Yesterday the teacher _______ me that our children _______ too much.
3) __________ louder, please. I can’t hear what you ________.
4) The Prime Minister ___________ on television last night.
5) Chimpanzees cannot ____________ but everybody __________ they are very intelligent.
6) What will you _________ when you _________ to Mr Reed tomorrow?
7) [on the telephone]… ‘May I _________ to Mrs Brown please?’
8) The policeman _________ me to show him my driving licence.
9) Don’t _________ during the film. If you want to _________ to me, wait until it’s over.
10) His throat disease has left him unable to _________.
11) If you promise not to _________ anyone, I’ll _________ you a secret.
12) She always _________ the children a story before they go to bed.
13) The little boy doesn’t know how to _________ the time yet.
14) If you _________ so, I suppose it’s true. I don’t think you would _________ me a lie.
15) He left without _________ goodbye
16) If you could _________ a good word for him, he might get the job.
17) She _________ that she can’t _________ the difference between butter and margarine.
18) To _________ the truth, I haven’t been there long.
19) Please _________ no more about it.
20) They asked the prisoner several questions, but he _________ nothing.
21) Please _________ up. I can’t make out what you are _________.
22) I slept in and got _________ off by the boss.
23) Do you think I should _________ the matter over with my parents?
24) Don’t _________ back when you’re being reprimanded!
25) Many politicians are _________ rubbish all the time.
26) I’ll _________ you what: I’ll get the tickets and we can meet at the pub, all right?
27) Who _________ you that joke?
28) Sorry, what did you _________?