

The Verb "To Say": Present Simple (All Forms)

A1 English Worksheet – Lesson 1: say/says, don't say/doesn't say, and questions

Language Focus

We use say to talk about words people speak. Notice that "say" ends in vowel + y, so it just adds -s for he/she/it (says) – unlike verbs ending in consonant + y, such as "study" → "studies".

Affirmative	I/you/we/they: say; he/she/it: says	<i>I say hello every morning. She says thank you politely.</i>
Negative	don't say / doesn't say	<i>I don't say much in meetings. He doesn't say sorry easily.</i>
Yes/No Question	Do...say...? / Does...say...?	<i>Do you say grace before meals? Does she say goodbye every time?</i>
Short Answer	Yes/No + subject + do/does(n't)	<i>Yes, I do. No, she doesn't.</i>
Wh- Question	Wh-word + do/does + subject + say...?	<i>What do you say when you're nervous? Why does he say that?</i>

Remember: don't confuse "say" and "tell"! We say words or "that..." (say hello, say that you're busy), but we tell a person something (tell me, tell her the truth). We don't say "say me" – the correct form is "tell me".

Listening: My Grandmother's Sayings

Context: describing a family member's habits of speech

Listen to your teacher read this aloud, or read it yourself. Then complete Exercise 1.

My grandmother says a lot of old-fashioned expressions.

She always says 'please' and 'thank you' to everyone, even strangers.

She doesn't say bad words, not even when she's angry.

My brother and I don't say those old expressions ourselves, but we love hearing them.

Sometimes she says something so old that we don't understand it!

When she doesn't like something, she just says 'hmm' instead of complaining.

1. True or False

Context: My Grandmother's Sayings (from the listening)

1. Grandmother says please and thank you often. True / False
2. Grandmother says bad words when angry. True / False
3. The speaker and brother often use grandmother's old sayings. True / False
4. Grandmother sometimes says things they don't understand. True / False
5. Grandmother complains loudly when she dislikes something. True / False

2. Multiple Choice

Context: everyday phrases

1. I ___ 'good morning' to my neighbours.
say / says
2. My teacher ___ the same joke every year.
say / says
3. We ___ 'cheers' before drinking.
say / says
4. She ___ nice things about everyone.
say / says
5. They ___ hello in different languages.
say / says
6. He ___ sorry when he makes a mistake.
say / says

3. Matching

Context: question to answer

Draw a line to match each question to the correct answer.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What do you say when you meet someone new? | <i>No, they just walk out.</i> |
| 2. Does she say thank you often? | <i>I usually say 'nice to meet you.'</i> |
| 3. Do they say goodbye before leaving? | <i>He says it's fantastic.</i> |
| 4. What does he say about the movie? | <i>Yes, she says it all the time.</i> |
| 5. Do you say sorry easily? | <i>Yes, I do.</i> |

4. Gap Fill

Context: a cultural note about greetings

Complete the text with say, says, don't say, or doesn't say.

In my country, we _____ 'good morning' until noon. After that, people _____ 'good afternoon.' My friend from abroad _____ this because it's different in her country. She _____ 'hello' at any time of day. We _____ 'good evening' until after six. Children _____ 'good night' before going to bed.

5. Do/Does Sort

Sort these subjects into the correct group: I, You, We, They, My friends, The children, He, She, It, My teacher, The announcer

do:

does:

6. Word Order

Context: negatives and questions

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. don't / I / say / much / in / class.
2. she / Does / say / sorry / often?
3. don't / We / say / bad / things / about / others.
4. do / What / you / say / in / this / situation?
5. doesn't / He / say / much / about / his / job.

7. Right or Wrong?

Context: a communication survey

Is the sentence right or wrong? Circle your answer. If it's wrong, write the correct form.

1. She say sorry to everyone. Right / Wrong: _____
2. He says me the answer. Right / Wrong: _____
3. He says please and thank you. Right / Wrong: _____
4. They doesn't say much at meetings. Right / Wrong: _____
5. We say hello to our neighbours. Right / Wrong: _____

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A1 Teacher Answer Key – Lesson 1

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1. True or False - Answers

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Grandmother says please and thank you often. | True |
| 2. Grandmother says bad words when angry. | False |
| 3. The speaker and brother often use grandmother's old sayings. | False |
| 4. Grandmother sometimes says things they don't understand. | True |
| 5. Grandmother complains loudly when she dislikes something. | False |

2. Multiple Choice - Answers

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. I ___ 'good morning' to my neighbours. | say |
| 2. My teacher ___ the same joke every year. | says |
| 3. We ___ 'cheers' before drinking. | say |
| 4. She ___ nice things about everyone. | says |
| 5. They ___ hello in different languages. | say |
| 6. He ___ sorry when he makes a mistake. | says |

3. Matching - Answers

1. What do you say when you meet someone new?

I usually say 'nice to meet you.'

2. Does she say thank you often?

Yes, she says it all the time.

3. Do they say goodbye before leaving?

No, they just walk out.

4. What does he say about the movie?

He says it's fantastic.

5. Do you say sorry easily?

Yes, I do.

4. Gap Fill - Answers (in order)

1. Blank 1

say

2. Blank 2

say

3. Blank 3

doesn't say

4. Blank 4

says

5. Blank 5

don't say

6. Blank 6

say

5. Do/Does Sort - Answers

do: I, You, We, They, My friends, The children
does: He, She, It, My teacher, The announcer

6. Word Order - Answers

1. I don't say much in class.
2. Does she say sorry often?
3. We don't say bad things about others.
4. What do you say in this situation?
5. He doesn't say much about his job.

7. Right or Wrong? - Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. She say sorry to everyone. | Wrong - says |
| 2. He says me the answer. | Wrong - tells |
| 3. He says please and thank you. | Right |
| 4. They doesn't say much at meetings. | Wrong - don't |
| 5. We say hello to our neighbours. | Right |