

**tell**

I

[tel] *v (told)***1. 1) рассказывать**

to tell a story /a tale/ - рассказать историю

to tell the tale of smth. - рассказать историю о чём-л.

to tell one's own tale - красноречиво свидетельствовать; не нуждаться в пояснениях; говорить за себя

to tell (smb.) the truth [a lie, falsehood] - сказать (кому-л.) правду [ложь, неправду]

he told us his adventures [how he came to be a writer] - он рассказал нам о своих приключениях [о том, как он стал писателем]

I'll tell you everything - я всё тебе расскажу

I'll tell you what happened - я расскажу тебе, что произошло

to tell smb. about /of/ smth. - рассказать кому-л. о чём-л.

tell me something about yourself - расскажите мне что-нибудь о себе

to tell of an incident - рассказать о случившемся

I am told, I hear it told - говорят, рассказывают; я слышал

**2) говорить, рассказываться**

as the story tells - как говорится в этой истории

the story tells beautifully - эта история словно создана для пересказа

**2. говорить; сообщать**

to tell smb. smth. - говорить кому-л. что-л.

to tell the time - сказать, который час [см. тж. 6, 1])

to tell smb. the facts [the news], to tell the facts [the news] to smb. - сообщить кому-л. факты [новости]

to tell smb. the shortest way - указать кому-л. кратчайшую дорогу

to tell smb. good-bye - *амер.* попрощаться с кем-л.

tell me your name - как вас зовут?

I tell you no! - я сказал нет!

you told me (that) you loved music - ты сказал мне, что любишь музыку

to tell smb. when [where] to come - сказать кому-л., когда [куда] прийти

I can't tell you how happy I am - не могу сказать вам, как я счастлив

you can't tell me anything about that - я и без вас знаю

he wrote to tell me of his father's death - он сообщил мне письмом о смерти своего отца

I shan't tell you again! - не заставляй меня повторять; ≅ в следующий раз пеняй на себя!

I told you so, didn't I tell you! - я же вам говорил!

**3. 1) разглашать, рассказывать, выбалтывать; выдавать**

to tell a secret - разглашать тайну

promise not to tell (this) - обещайте, что никому не расскажете (об этом)

that would be telling! - это мой секрет!, этого я никому не скажу!

a gentleman never tell - джентльмен никогда не разглашает чужих тайн

**2) (on) *разг.* ябедничать, наговаривать; жаловаться**

to tell on one's sister - наябедничать на сестру

I was going to tell father on him - я собиралась пожаловаться на него отцу

**4. заверять, уверять; утверждать**

I can tell you, let me tell you, I'm telling you - уверяю вас, смею вас уверить, поверьте мне; будьте спокойны

**5. 1) определять; узнавать; отличать различать**

to tell the difference [the cause] - установить разницу [причину]

to tell two things apart - различать две вещи

to tell one thing from another - отличать одну вещь от другой

you can always tell him by his gait [by his voice] - его всегда можно узнать по походке [по голосу]

it's difficult to tell how it's done - трудно сказать, как это делается

one can tell that she is intelligent - она умница, это (сразу) видно

I can tell it from the look in your eyes - это видно по вашим глазам

how can I tell that he'll do it? - откуда мне знать, сделает он это или нет?

one can tell if an animal is happy in captivity - можно определить, хорошо ли животное чувствует себя в неволе

**2) отличаться, выделяться**

the two colour spots tell in the picture - эти два цветовых пятна резко выделяются на картине

**6. 1) обнаруживать, указывать, показывать**

to tell the time - показывать время; показывать, который час (о часах) [см. тж. 2]

the bell was telling the hour - ≅ били часы, отмеряя время

**2) свидетельствовать**

it tells of his desire to come back - это говорит о его желании вернуться

it tells somewhat against him - это говорит не в его пользу

**7. (часто on, upon) отзываться, сказываться**

every blow tells - ни один удар не проходит бесследно /даром/

age begins to tell (on him) - годы начинают сказываться (на нём); ≅ годы берут своё

breeding will tell - хорошее воспитание не скроешь

**8. велеть, приказывать**

to tell smb. to do smth. - велеть кому-л. сделать что-л.

tell him to wait - вели ему подождать

you must do as you are told /as I tell you/ - делайте /поступайте/, как вам говорят /как я говорю/

## 9. *учт.*

### 1) считать, пересчитывать; подсчитывать

to tell one's money - считать деньги

to tell the House - подсчитывать число голосов

### 2) отсчитывать (*деньги*); платить

### 3) насчитывать

he tells seventy years - ему уже 70 лет

◇ all told - и общей сложности

to tell one's beads - перебирать чётки, читать молитвы

to tell the world - *амер.* а) рассказывать всему свету, трезвонить на всех перекрёстках; б) решительно утверждать

to tell fortunes - гадать

to tell smb. his own - сказать кому-л. правду в глаза; ≅ резать правду-матку

to tell tother from which - отличать друг от друга

to tell smb. where to get off - поставить кого-л. на место, осадить кого-л.

to tell it like it is - *сл.* говорить правду; выложить всё начистоту, не кривить душой

time will tell - поживём - увидим

do tell! - *амер.* вот те на!, не может быть!

never tell me!, don't tell me! - что вы говорите!, не может быть!, не сочиняйте!

tell me /us/ another - не рассказывайте сказок /басен/; ≅ ври больше

you're telling me! - можете не рассказывать!, кому вы это рассказываете?, без вас знаю!

I'll tell you what - знаете что; послушайте меня

you /one/ never can tell, nobody can tell, there is no telling, who can tell? - кто знает?, почём знать?

tell it not in Gath - а) *библ.* не рассказывайте в Гефе; б) скрывайте своё горе, чтобы у врагов не было повода торжествовать

## II

[tel] *n*

курган, искусственный холм

## tell

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**tell** [tel tells told telling] *BrE* [tel] <sup>ˈ</sup> *NAmE* [tel] <sup>ˈ</sup> **verb** (told, told *BrE* [təʊld] <sup>ˈ</sup> ; *NAmE* [toʊld] <sup>ˈ</sup> )

## GIVE INFORMATION

### 1. transitive (of a person) to give information to sb by speaking or writing

- ~ **sth to sb** He told the news to everybody he saw.
- ~ **sb sth** He told everybody he saw the news.
- Did she tell you her name?
- **What did I tell you** ? (= you should have listened to my advice)
- ~ **sb (about sth)** Why wasn't I told about the accident?
- ~ **sb/yourself (that)**... They've told us (that) they're not coming.
- I **kept telling myself** (that) everything was OK.
- Are you telling me you didn't have any help with this? (= I don't believe what you have said)
- ~ **sb where, what, etc...** Tell me where you live.
- ~ **sb + speech** 'I'm ready to go now,' he told her.

### 2. transitive (of some writing, an instrument, a sign, etc.) to give information about sth

- ~ **sb sth** The advertisement told us very little about the product.
- ~ **sb how, where, etc...** This gauge tells you how much fuel you have left.
- ~ **sb (that)**... The sound of his breathing told her (that) he was asleep.

## EXPRESS IN WORDS

### 3. transitive to express sth in words

- ~ **sth to tell stories/jokes/lies**
- Are you sure you're **telling the truth** ?
- ~ **sb how, what, etc...** I can't tell you how happy I am.

## SECRET

### 4. intransitive (informal) to let sb know a secret

- Promise you won't tell.
- 'Who are you going out with tonight?' ' **That would be telling** !' (= it's a secret)

## ORDER

### 5. transitive to order or advise sb to do sth

- ~ **sb/yourself to do sth** He was told to sit down and wait.
- There was a sign telling motorists to slow down.
- I kept telling myself to keep calm.
- ~ **sb sth** Do what I tell you.
- ~ **sb** Children must **do as they're told** .
- ~ **sb what, when, etc...** Don't tell me what to do!
- ~ **sb (that)**... The doctor told me (that) I should eat less fat.

## KNOW/JUDGE

6. **intransitive, transitive** (not used in the progressive tenses) to know, see or judge sth correctly

- I think he's happy. **It's hard to tell** .
- **As far as I can tell** , she's enjoying the course.
- ~ **(that)**... I could tell (that) he was angry from his expression.
- ~ **how, if, etc...** 'That's not an original.' 'How can you tell?'
- The only way to tell if you like something is by trying it.

## DISTINGUISH

7. **transitive** (not used in the progressive tenses or in the passive) to distinguish one thing or person from another

- ~ **sth** It was hard to **tell the difference between** the two versions.
- ~ **A from B** Can you tell Tom from his twin brother?
- ~ **A and B apart** It's difficult to **tell them apart** .
- ~ **which, what, etc...** The kittens look exactly alike— how can you **tell which is which** ?

## HAVE EFFECT

8. **intransitive** ~ (on sb) to have an effect on sb/sth, especially a bad one

- The strain was beginning to tell on the rescue team.

**more at** hear tell of sth **at** ↑hear, kiss and tell **at** ↑kiss v., a little bird told me **at** ↑little adj., know/tell sb a thing or two (about sb/sth)

**at** ↑thing, time (alone)only time will tell **at** ↑time n., if (the) truth be known/told **at** ↑truth

Idioms: ↑I can tell you ▪ ↑I tell you ▪ ↑I tell you what ▪ ↑I told you ▪ ↑I'm telling you ▪ ↑all told ▪ ↑don't tell me ▪ ↑live to tell the tale  
▪ ↑tell a different tale ▪ ↑tell its own tale ▪ ↑tell me ▪ ↑tell me about it ▪ ↑tell me another! ▪ ↑tell somebody what they can do with something ▪ ↑tell somebody where to get off they can get off ▪ ↑tell somebody where to put something ▪ ↑tell tales ▪ ↑tell the time  
▪ ↑tell the truth ▪ ↑there's no telling ▪ ↑you can never tell ▪ ↑you never can tell ▪ ↑you're telling me!

Derived ↑tell against somebody ▪ ↑tell of something ▪ ↑tell on somebody ▪ ↑tell somebody off

See also: ↑tell time

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	tell
	BrE /tel/
	NAmE /tɛl/
he / she / it	tells
	BrE /tɛlz/
	NAmE /tɛlz/
past simple, past participle	told
	BrE /təʊld/
	NAmE /toʊld/
-ing form	telling
	BrE /teɪɪŋ/
	NAmE /teɪɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English tellan 'relate, count, estimate', of Germanic origin; related to German zählen 'reckon, count', erzählen 'recount, relate', also to ↑tale.

Synonyms:

**order**

tell • instruct • direct • command

These words all mean to use your position of authority to say to sb that they must do sth.

**order** • to use your position of authority to tell sb to do sth: ▪ The company was ordered to pay compensation to its former employee. ◇▪ 'Come here at once!' she ordered.

**tell** • to say to sb that they must or should do sth: ▪ He was told to sit down and wait. ◇▪ Don't tell me what to do!

**instruct** • (rather formal) to tell sb to do sth, especially in a formal or official way: ▪ The letter instructed him to report to headquarters immediately.

**direct** • (formal) to give an official order: ▪ The judge directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

**command** • to use your position of authority to tell sb to do sth: ▪ He commanded his men to retreat.

**order or command?**

**Order** is a more general word than **command** and can be used about anyone in a position of authority, such as a parent, teacher or government telling sb to do sth. **Command** is slightly stronger than **order** and is the normal word to use about an army officer giving orders, or in any context where it is normal to give orders without any discussion about them. It is less likely to be used about a parent or teacher.

to order/tell/instruct/direct/command sb **to do sth**

to order/instruct/direct/command **that...**

to **do sth as** ordered/told/instructed/directed/commanded

Which Word?:

**say / tell**

**Say** never has a person as the object. You **say something** or **say something to somebody**. **Say** is often used when you are giving somebody's exact words: ▪ 'Sit down', she said. ◇▪ Anne said, 'I'm tired.' ◇▪ Anne said (that) she was tired. ◇▪ What did

he say to you? You cannot use 'say about', but **say something about** is correct: ▪ I want to say something /a few words /a little about my family. **Say** can also be used with a clause when the person you are talking to is not mentioned: ▪ She didn't say what she intended to do.

**Tell** usually has a person as the object and often has two objects: ▪ Have you told him the news yet? It is often used with 'that' clauses: ▪ Anne told me (that) she was tired. **Tell** is usually used when somebody is giving facts or information, often with what, where, etc: ▪ Can you tell me when the movie starts? (BUT: ▪ Can you give me some information about the school? ) **Tell** is also used when you are giving somebody instructions: ▪ The doctor told me to stay in bed. ◊▪ The doctor told me (that) I had to stay in bed. OR ▪ The doctor said (that) I had to stay in bed. NOT The doctor said me to stay in bed.

### Example Bank:

- Can you tell this copy from the original?
- He told the story to all his friends.
- I could tell by his face that he was very angry.
- I couldn't tell the two brothers apart.
- I couldn't tell who was meant to be the chairman.
- I hate to tell you this but I've broken your phone.
- I hate to tell you, but the car's a write-off.
- I never told him about the money.
- I tried to tell them but they wouldn't let me.
- I was going to tell you— I just didn't get around to it.
- No one had told her of the dangers.
- She told me bluntly it was my own fault.
- The strain of looking after two elderly relatives is beginning to tell on him.
- 'I'm ready to go now,' he told her.
- 'Who are you going out with tonight?' 'That would be telling!'
- Are you telling the truth?
- Did anyone tell you what happened?
- Do as you're told!
- Don't tell me what to do!
- Don't tell on me, will you?
- I can't tell one twin from the other.
- I can't tell you how happy I am.
- I specifically told you to be here on time.
- It's difficult to tell them apart.
- Promise you won't tell.
- She is always telling lies.
- The doctor told me (that) I should lose some weight.
- The kittens looked exactly alike— how could you tell which was which?
- They told stories and jokes while sitting around the camp fire.
- They've told us (that) they're not coming.
- Why wasn't I told about the accident?

## tell

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**tell** **S1 W1** /tel/ *BrE* " *AmE* " *verb* (past tense and past participle **told**) /təʊld \$ toʊld/

[Language: Old English; Origin: tellan]

**1. COMMUNICATE SOMETHING [transitive]** if someone tells you something, they communicate information, a story, their feelings etc to you

**tell somebody (that)**

- I wish someone had told me the meeting was canceled.
- The Chief of Police told reporters that two people were killed in the blast.

**tell somebody what/how/where/who etc**

- Jack had to go, but he didn't tell me why.
- I think you'd better tell me exactly what's been going on around here.

**tell somebody about something**

- No one had told them about the drug's side effects.
- I'll tell you all about it when I get back.

**tell somebody something**

- Tell me your phone number again.

**tell (somebody) a story/joke/secret/lie**

- She told us some funny stories about her sister.
- Sheppard was telling the truth.

**tell somebody straight (=tell someone the truth, even though it might upset them)**

- Tell me straight, Adam. Just answer yes or no.

▶ Do not say 'tell that ...'. Say **tell someone that ...** or **say that ...**: *She told me (NOT She told) that she was a vegetarian.* | *She said that she was a vegetarian.* ⇒ see *Thesaurus box on P.1816*

### REGISTER

In written English, people often prefer to say that another writer **describes** something, rather than using **tell**:

- His book describes how the human brain has developed.

**2. SHOW SOMETHING [transitive]** to give information in ways other than talking

**tell somebody how/what/where/who etc**

- The light tells you when the machine is ready.
  - The bear's sense of smell tells it where prey is hiding.
- tell somebody about something**
- What do these fossils tell us about climate change?
- 3. WHAT SOMEBODY SHOULD DO [transitive] to say that someone must do something**
- tell somebody (not) to do something**
- The teacher told the children to sit down quietly.
  - I thought I told you not to touch anything!
- tell somebody (that)**
- Bernice was told she had to work late this evening.
- tell somebody what/how etc**
- Stop trying to tell me what to do all the time.
  - Do as you are told (=obey me) and don't ask questions.
- 4. KNOW [intransitive, transitive not in progressive] to know something or be able to recognize something because of certain signs that show this**
- can/can't tell**
- She might have been lying. Benjy couldn't tell.
- tell (that)**
- The moment Kramer walked in, I could tell that things were not going well.
- tell (something) a mile off (=know easily)**
- You could tell a mile off that he was lying.
- tell when/how/whether/if etc**
- It's hard to tell how long the job will take.
- tell something by something/from something**
- I could tell from his tone of voice that Ken was disappointed.
- 5. RECOGNIZE DIFFERENCE [transitive not in progressive] to be able to see how one person or thing is different from another**
- tell something from something**
- How can you tell a fake Vuitton handbag from the real thing?
  - Can you tell the difference between sparkling wine and champagne? ⇒ **TELL APART**
- 6. tell yourself something to persuade yourself that something is true:**
- I keep telling myself there is nothing I could have done to save him.
- 7. WARN [transitive usually in past tense] to warn someone that something bad might happen**
- tell somebody (that)**
- I told you it was a waste of time talking to him.
- tell somebody (not) to do something**
- My mother told me not to trust Robert.
- 8. TELL SOMEBODY ABOUT BAD BEHAVIOUR [intransitive] informal to tell someone in authority about something wrong that someone you know has done – used especially by children SYN tell on somebody:**
- If you hit me, I'll tell. ⇒ ↑**kiss-and-tell**
- 9. tell tales British English to say something that is not true about someone else, in order to cause trouble for them – used especially about children:**
- an unpopular boy, who was always telling tales on the other children ⇒ ↑**telltale**<sup>2</sup>
- 10. all told altogether, when everyone or everything has been counted:**
- There must have been eight cars in the accident, all told.
- 11. AFFECT [intransitive not in progressive] to have an effect on someone, especially a harmful one**
- tell on somebody**
- These late nights are really beginning to tell on him.
- 12. tell the time British English, tell time American English to be able to know what time it is by looking at a clock**
- • •

## SPOKEN PHRASES

- 13. I/I'll tell you what (also tell you what)**
- a) used when you are suggesting or offering something:**
- I tell you what – let's have a picnic in the park.
- b) American English used in order to emphasize what you are really saying:**
- I tell you what, I'm not looking forward to standing up in court tomorrow.
- 14. to tell (you) the truth used to emphasize that you are being very honest:**
- I don't really want to go out, to tell the truth.
- 15. I can tell you/I'm telling you used to emphasize that what you are saying is true even though it may be difficult to believe:**
- I'm telling you, Sheila, I've never seen anything like it in my life.
- 16. tell me used before asking a question:**
- Tell me, do you think this dress goes with these shoes?
  - So tell me, how was it in Argentina?
- 17. I told you so used when you have warned someone about a possible danger that has now happened and they have ignored your warning:**
- I suppose you've come to say 'I told you so.'
- 18. I'll tell you something/one thing/another thing (also let me tell you something/one thing/another thing) used to emphasize what you are saying:**
- I'll tell you one thing – you'll never get me to vote for him.
  - Let me tell you something – if I catch you kids smoking again, you'll be grounded for a month at least.



19. **you can tell him from me** used to ask someone to tell another person something, when you are annoyed or determined:

Well, you can tell him from me that I'm going to make a complaint.

20. **I couldn't tell you** used to tell someone that you do not know the answer to their question:

'How much would a rail ticket cost?' 'I couldn't tell you; I always drive.'

21. **I can't tell you**

a) used to say that you cannot tell someone something because it is a secret:

'Where are you taking me?' 'I can't tell you; it would spoil the surprise.'

b) used to say that you cannot express your feelings or describe something properly

**I can't tell you how/why/what etc**

I can't tell you how worried I've been.

22. **don't tell me** used to interrupt someone because you know what they are going to say or because you want to guess – used especially when you are annoyed:

'I'm sorry I'm late but ...' 'Don't tell me – the car broke down again?'

23. **somebody tells me (that)** used to say what someone has told you:

Mike tells me you've got a new job.

24. **you're telling me** used to emphasize that you already know and agree with something that someone has just said:

'He's such a pain to live with.' 'You're telling me!'

25. **tell me about it** used to say that you already know how bad something is, especially because you have experienced it yourself:

'I've been so tired lately.' 'Yeah, tell me about it!'

26. **you never can tell/you can never tell** used to say that you cannot be certain about what will happen in the future:

The boy might turn out to be a genius. You never can tell.

27. **there's no telling what/how etc** used to say that it is impossible to know what has happened or what will happen next:

There's no telling what she'll try next.

28. **that would be telling** used to say that you cannot tell someone something because it is a secret

29. **tell somebody where to go/where to get off** used to tell someone angrily that what they have said is insulting or unfair:

'Andy started criticizing the way I was dressed.' 'I hope you told him where to get off!'

30. **tell it like it is** *American English* to say exactly what you think or what is true, without hiding anything that might upset or offend people:

Don always tells it like it is.

31. **I'm not telling (you)** used to say that you refuse to tell someone something:

'Mum, what are you getting me for my birthday?' 'I'm not telling you – you'll have to wait and see.'

32. **tell me another (one)** used when you do not believe what someone has told you

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## COLLOCATIONS

### ■ nouns

- **tell a story/tale** He then told the story of how he was injured while riding his motorcycle.
- **tell a joke** They sat around telling terrible jokes.
- **tell somebody a secret** I offered to tell her my secret if she didn't tell anyone else.
- **tell a lie** They told lies about us.
- **tell the truth** 'I'm telling you the truth,' she persisted.

• • •

## THESAURUS

- **tell** to give someone information by speaking or writing to them: She wrote to tell me she was getting married. | Can you tell us where the nearest garage is?
- **let somebody know** *especially spoken* to tell someone something when you know more about it: Let me know your new address as soon as you can. | Let us know what happens at the interview.
- **pass a message on to somebody** (*also pass it on informal*) to tell another person the information that has been told to you: She's with a client at the moment, but I'll pass the message on to her. | If I get any news, I'll pass it on.
- **brief** to give someone all the necessary information about a situation, so that they can do their work: Police officers were briefed before going out to arrest the suspects.
- **relate** *formal* to tell someone about something that happened to you or to someone else: One girl related a story about a friend who had accidentally become pregnant.
- **recount** *formal* to tell someone about a series of events: The guide recounted the history of the castle, from the 1300s onwards.
- **bring something to sb's attention** to tell someone about something that they did not know about, but which they need to know about: I wanted to bring the matter to your attention. | She was the first person to study the effects of pesticides, and to bring them to people's attention.
- **fill somebody in** *informal* to tell someone about things that have happened recently, especially at work: Can you fill Robert in on the progress we've made while he's been on holiday?

### ■ to officially tell someone

- **inform** to officially tell someone about something: Do you think we ought to inform the police? | Doctors should inform patients about the possible side effects of any drugs they prescribe.
- **announce** to tell people publicly and officially about something: The university chancellor announced his resignation on Friday. | It was announced that the company had made a profit of \$6 billion.
- **report** to officially tell someone about something that has happened: She was able to report that the project was nearly finished.
- **notify** *formal* to tell someone officially about something that has happened or that is planned to happen: Staff were notified several months in advance that they would be losing their jobs.

**tell against somebody** *phrasal verb British English formal*

to make someone less likely to succeed in achieving or winning something:

I badly wanted the job, but knew that my age would probably tell against me.

**tell somebody/something apart** *phrasal verb*

if you can tell two people or things apart, you can see the difference between them, so that you do not confuse them **SYN**

**distinguish:**

" It's almost impossible to tell the twins apart.

**tell of somebody/something** *phrasal verb literary*

to describe an event or person:

" The poem tells of the deeds of a famous warrior.

**REGISTER**

In everyday English, people usually say that a poem, story etc **is about** something rather than **tells of** something:

▪ What's his latest poem about?

**tell somebody** ↔ **off** *phrasal verb*

if someone in authority tells you off, they speak to you angrily about something wrong that you have done

**be/get told off**

" Shelley was one of those kids who was always getting told off at school.

**tell somebody off for doing something**

" My dad told me off for swearing.

**tell on somebody** *phrasal verb informal*

to tell someone in authority about something wrong that someone you know has done – used especially by children:

" Please don't tell on me – my parents will kill me if they find out!

**tell**

12500 **111**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **95**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **1k** TELL 410524

tell 174179

retell 140

retelling 485

telling 37061

tells 25489

told 172239

untold 931

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

48491 **330**<sup>118428</sup> *vvi*

29100 **713**<sup>55353</sup> *vv0*

255 **40790**<sup>324</sup> *np1*

35 **128957**<sup>36</sup> *nn1*

26 **147488**<sup>28</sup> *jj*

9 **261195**<sup>10</sup> *nnu*