

say

1. [seɪ] *n*

1. высказывание, мнение, слово

to have one's say - высказываться; высказывать своё мнение

he has had his say - он уже высказал своё мнение, он уже имел возможность высказаться

it is now my say - теперь я скажу /моя очередь говорить/

let him have his say - пусть он выскажется

to say one's say - высказывать всё, что думаешь

2. авторитет влияние

to have a say in the matter - иметь, влияние в каком-л. деле; участвовать в решении какого-л. вопроса

to have no say in the matter - не иметь права вмешиваться в решение *или* обсуждение какого-л. вопроса

I have no say in this matter - не я решаю этот вопрос

to have the say - **амер.** иметь право окончательно решать (*что-л.*)

who has the say in the matter? - за кем решающее слово в этом вопросе?

2. [seɪ] *v* (*said*)

1. 1) говорить, сказать

••All right••, he says - «Хорошо», - говорит он

••Come here••, said he - «Подойди(те) сюда», - сказал он

••I will do it••, she said (resolutely) - «Я сделаю это», - (про)молвила она (решительно)

he said it sharply [in a harsh voice] - он сказал это резко [резким /сердитым/ голосом]

what does he say? - что он говорит?

he said (that) he was busy - он сказал, что он занят

she said (that) she wanted to see me [to read this book] - она сказала, что хочет видеть меня [прочитать эту книгу]

he said (that) she should come - он сказал /велел/, чтобы она пришла

I say (that) you must do it - я говорю, что ты должен это сделать [*см. тж.* 4]

to say smth. to smb. - сказать что-л кому-л.

I have smth. to say to you - мне нужно тебе кое-что сказать [*ср. тж.* 4 и 5]

to say nothing - ничего не сказать /не говорить/, (про)молчать

I have nothing to say - мне нечего сказать, мне не о чем говорить [*см. тж.* 5]

I have nothing to say to him - а) мне нечего ему сказать; б) мне с ним не о чем говорить, я и говорить с ним не желаю

I shall say no more - я больше ничего не скажу

say no more! - ни слова больше!, хватит!

he didn't say a word - он не вымолвил /не произнёс, не сказал/ ни (одного) слова

to say to oneself - сказать себе, (по)думать про себя

to say smth. again - повторять что-л

say that again! - повторите

to say over a role - повторять /учить/ роль

to say smth. over and over again - повторять что-л без конца

they say such things out of /through/ envy - они говорят такие вещи из зависти

easier said than done - легче сказать, чем сделать

no sooner said than done - сказано - сделано

the less said the better - чем меньше слов, тем лучше

(the) least said (the) soonest mended - **посл.** ≅ словами делу не поможешь; разговорами можно только испортить дело

that is to say - другими /иными/ словами, иначе говоря, то есть

in three weeks' time, that is to say on January 20 - через три недели, другими словами /то есть/ 20-го января

to say what one knows [wants] - говорить (то), что знаешь [хочешь]

do it because I say so - сделай это, потому что я так говорю /велю/

you have no right to say so! - вы не имеете права так говорить!

I'm glad to say - с радостью могу сказать /отметить **и т. п.** /

I'm sorry to say ... - к сожалению ...

I must say - признаться

the news surprised me, I must say - признаюсь /признаться сказать/, эти новости удивили меня

I mean to say (that ...) - (этим) я хочу сказать (что ...)

you don't mean to say that ... - неужели вы хотите сказать, что ...

to say yes - а) сказать /говорить/ «да», давать согласие, соглашаться; to say yes to an invitation [to a proposal] - принимать приглашение [предложение]; б) подтверждать (*заявление, сообщение*)

to say no - а) сказать /говорить/ «нет», не давать согласия, отказывать; to say no to an invitation [to a proposal] - не принять /отказаться от/ приглашения [предложения]; she again said no to me - она опять отказала мне; б) отрицать опровергать (*заявление, сообщение*)

to say smb. nay - отклонить /отвергнуть/ чью-л. просьбу

to say thank you - сказать «спасибо», (по)благодарить

to say good morning (to smb.) - (по)желать (кому-л.) доброго утра, (по)здороваться (с кем-л.) утром

to say good night (to smb.) - (по)желать (кому-л.) спокойной ночи, (по)прощаться (с кем-л.)

to say goodbye - сказать «до свидания», (по)прощаться

to say nothing of - не говоря (уже) (*о чём-л.*)

he knows no mathematics to say nothing of cybernetics - он не имеет представления о математике, не говоря уже о кибернетике

not to say ... - чтобы не сказать ...

he was rude, not to say insolent - он держал себя грубо, чтобы не сказать нагло

(it) goes without saying - само собой разумеется

2) выражать

that was well said - это было хорошо сказано

I don't know how to say it - я не знаю, как это сказать /выразить/

if I may say so - если можно так выразиться

he is, if I may say so, a fool - он, с позволения сказать, дурак

her eyes said more than her words - её глаза были красноречивее её слов

America, or, better said, the United States of America - Америка, или, правильнее сказать, Соединённые Штаты Америки

2. **обыкн. безл.** говорить, утверждать (что, якобы), сообщать

people /they/ say (that) the experiment was successful - говорят /ходят слухи/, что опыт удался

it is said in the papers that the treaty was signed yesterday - в газетах сообщают, что договор был подписан вчера

he is said to be /they say he is/ a great singer - говорят, (что) он выдающийся певец

he is said to swim well - говорят, (что) он хорошо плавает

it is generally said that ... - обычно утверждают /считают/, что ...

3. гласить; говорить

the law says ... - закон гласит ..., по закону ...

the text of the treaty says - текст договора гласит, в тексте договора записано

the telegram says, it says /is said/ in the telegram - телеграмма гласит, в телеграмме сказано

the letter says, it says /is said/ in the letter - в письме говорится

the notice says that the show is cancelled - в объявлении сказано, что спектакль отменяется

the tower clock says ten o'clock - на башенных часах десять (часов), башенные часы показывают десять (часов)

the publisher says in the preface that ... - издатель говорит в своём предисловии, что ...

4. иметь *или* высказывать мнение, считать, полагать

it was said by Plato that ... - Платон утверждал, что ...; у Платона сказано /говорится/, что ...

what I say is - по-моему, по моему мнению, я считаю, мне кажется

I say you must do it - я считаю, что ты должен это сделать [*см. тж.* 1, 1])

and so say all of us - и мы тоже так думаем, и мы такого же мнения

to say out /*редк.* away/ - высказаться откровенно, облегчить душу

I cannot /couldn't/ say (whether he will come) - я не знаю (придёт ли он)

I wish I could say when it will happen - хотел бы я знать, когда это произойдёт

it is hard to say why [who it was] - трудно (с уверенностью) сказать почему [кто это был]

there is no saying how all this will end - кто знает, как /чем/ всё это кончится

I should say that he is right - я бы сказал /я полагаю/, что он прав

is it expensive? - I should say not - это дорого? - Я бы не сказал /Не думаю/ [*ср. тж.* ◇]

you wouldn't say by his look that ... - по его виду не скажешь, что ...

to have smth. to say (to /about/ smth.) - иметь мнение (относительно чего-л.) [*ср. тж.* 1, 1) и 5]

what have you to say (to all this)? - какое у вас (обо всём этом) мнение?; что вы (обо всём этом /на всё это/) скажете?

what did he say to that? - каково его мнение на этот счёт?, что он об этом думает?, что он на это сказал?

what do you say to my proposal? - как вы смотрите на моё предложение?

what do you say /what say you/ to a meal [to a trip to London]? - как насчёт того, чтобы поесть [съездить в Лондон]?

what do you say to a game of tennis? - сыграем /не хотите ли сыграть/ в теннис?

5. приводить доводы, аргументы; свидетельствовать

to say smth. for [against] smth., smb. - высказываться за [против] чего-л., кого-л.; свидетельствовать в пользу [против] чего-л., кого-л.

I cannot say much for this method - мне нечего сказать в пользу этого метода

I can't say much for his mathematics - я не могу сказать, чтобы он был очень силен в математике

that doesn't say much for his intelligence - это не свидетельствует о его большом уме

I cannot say much for his style - я невысокого мнения об его стиле; об его стиле говорить не приходится

it says little to me - мне это мало что говорит

there is much to say /to be said/ for [against] this plan - многое говорит в пользу [не в пользу] этого плана

there is much to be said on both sides - есть много доводов и за и против

to say a good word for smb. - замолвить за кого-л. словечко

to have smth. to say - возражать [*ср. тж.* 1, 1) и 4]

he always has smth. to say to my friends [to their coming] - он всегда возражает против моих друзей [их приезда]

I am afraid he will have smth. to say about it - боюсь, что он будет недоволен этим /возражать против этого/

to have smth. to say for oneself - а) сказать что-л. в свою защиту /в своё оправдание/; what have you to say for yourself? - что вы можете сказать в своё оправдание [*см. тж.* б)]; б) рассказывать кое-что себе; what have you to say for yourself? - что вы можете о себе рассказать?, что у вас нового? [*см. тж.* а)]; в) *разг.* быть разговорчивым, бойким на язык

he has plenty to say for himself - он за словом в карман не полезет

to have nothing to say - не иметь доводов, не находить аргументов [*см. тж.* 1, 1])

I have nothing to say to this - мне нечего на это возразить

I have nothing to say against him - я ничего против него не имею

to have nothing to say for oneself - а) не знать, что сказать в свою защиту /в своё оправдание/; б) *разг.* быть неразговорчивым

6. 1) читать наизусть, декламировать

to say a poem - читать /декламировать/ стихотворение

2) повторять наизусть, произносить вслух

to say a lesson - отвечать урок (*учителю*)

to say one's lessons - повторять уроки

to say one's prayers - молиться, читать молитвы

to say grace - прочесть молитву (перед трапезой)

to say mass - служить мессе /обедню/

7. допускать; предполагать

let us say - скажем, например, к примеру сказать, примерно

come to see me one of these days, let us say Sunday - приходи ко мне на этих днях, скажем, в воскресенье

if fifty is too much, shall we say thirty? - если пятьдесят слишком много, то тогда, может быть, тридцать?

well, say it were true, what then? - ну, допустим, (что) это верно, что ж из того?

8. *уст. поэт.* высказаться

◇ I say!, say! - а) послушайте!, эй! (*оклик или восклицание, рассчитанные на привлечение внимания собеседника*); I say, what's the point of all this? - послушай, в чём смысл всего этого?; I say, do come and look at this! - подойди же и посмотри на это!; б) да ну!, ну и ну!, вот так так!, вот тебе и на! (*выражает удивление или протест*)

say, how is that? - ну как же так?

oh, I say! It was you who spoke to me! - да что вы! Это ведь вы заговорили первая!

so you say! - рассказывайте!, так я вам и поверил!

says you!, *тж.* sez you! - *прост.* брехня!, как бы не так!, ещё чего скажешь!

I should say so! - ещё бы!, конечно!

I should say not! - ни за что!, конечно, нет! [*ср. тж.* 4]

you don't say (so)! - что вы говорите?, не может быть!, неужели!, скажи(те) на милость /пожалуйста!]

it is just as you say, you said it - вот именно

you may well say so! - совершенно верно /точно!

say when - скажи, когда довольно (*обычно говорят, наливая в рюмку вино*)

to say the word - приказать; распорядиться

you have only to say the word - вам стоит только слово сказать, только прикажите

what he says goes - его слово - закон

when all is said and done - в конечном счёте

to say it with flowers - а) галантно ухаживать; б) передавать чьё-л. поручение, привет *u m. n.* в утончённо-любезной форме

before you could say Jack Robinson /knife/ - ≅ не успеешь оглянуться, в один момент

3. [seɪ] *adv*

1. приблизительно примерно

the property is worth, say, four million dollars - это владение стоит приблизительночетыре миллиона долларов

2. например

if we compress any gas say oxygen - если мы сожмём любой газ, например /скажем, хотя бы/ кислород

say

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

say [say says said saying] verb, noun, exclamation BrE [seɪ] ^ˌ NAmE [seɪ] ^ˌ
verb (says BrE [sez] ^ˌ ; NAmE [sez] ^ˌ said, said BrE [sed] ^ˌ ; NAmE [sed] ^ˌ)

SPEAK

1. intransitive, transitive to speak or tell sb sth, using words

- + **speech** 'Hello!' she said.
- 'That was marvellous,' said Daniel. In stories the subject often comes after **said**, **says** or **say** when it follows the actual words spoken, unless it is a pronoun.
- ~ **sth** Be quiet, I have something to say.
- I didn't believe a word she said.
- That's a terrible **thing to say** .
- He knew that if he wasn't back by midnight, his parents would **have something to say about it** (= be angry) .
- ~ **sth to sb** She said nothing to me about it.
- ~ **to sb/yourself + speech** I **said to myself** (= thought) , 'That can't be right!'
- ~ **(that)...** He said (that) his name was Sam.
- **it is said that...** It is said that she lived to be over 100.
- ~ **(what, how, etc...)** She finds it hard to say what she feels.
- 'That's impossible!' ' **So you say** (= but I think you may be wrong) .'
- 'Why can't I go out now?' 'Because I **say so** .'
- 'What do you want it for?' ' **I'd rather not say** .'
- ~ **to do sth** He said to meet him here.
- **sb/sth is said to be/have sth** He is said to have been a brilliant scholar.

REPEAT WORDS

2. transitive ~ sth to repeat words, phrases, etc

- to say a prayer
- Try to say that line with more conviction.

EXPRESS OPINION

3. transitive, intransitive to express an opinion on sth

- ~ **sth** **Say what you like** (= although you disagree) about her, she's a fine singer.
- **I'll say this for them** , they're a very efficient company.
- Anna thinks I'm lazy— **what do you say** (= what is your opinion) ?
- ~ **(that)...** **I can't say I blame** her for resigning (= I think she was right) .
- **I say** (= suggest) we go without them.
- **I wouldn't say** they were rich (= in my opinion they are not rich) .

- **That's not to say** it's a bad movie (= it is good but it is not without faults) .
- ~ **(what, how, etc...)** **It's hard to say** what caused the accident.
- 'When will it be finished?' ' **I couldn't say** (= I don't know) .'

GIVE EXAMPLE

4. **transitive, no passive** to suggest or give sth as an example or a possibility
- ~ **sth/sb** You could learn the basics in, **let's say** , three months.
 - Let's take any writer, say (= for example) Dickens...
 - ~ **(that)...** Say you lose your job: what would you do then?

SHOW THOUGHTS/FEELINGS

5. **transitive ~ sth (to sb)** to make thoughts, feelings, etc. clear to sb by using words, looks, movements, etc
- His angry glance **said it all** .
 - That **says it all** really, doesn't it? (= it shows clearly what is true)
 - Just what is the artist trying to say in her work?

GIVE WRITTEN INFORMATION

6. **transitive, no passive** (of sth that is written or can be seen) to give particular information or instructions
- + **speech** The notice said 'Keep Out'.
 - ~ **sth** The clock said three o'clock.
 - ~ **(that)...** The instructions say (that) we should leave it to set for four hours.
 - ~ **where, why, etc...** The book doesn't say where he was born.
 - ~ **to do sth** The guidebook says to turn left.

more at I dare say **at** ↑**dare** *v.*, easier said than done **at** ↑**easy** *adj.*, enough said **at** ↑**enough** *pron.*, I'm glad to say **at** ↑**glad**, let us say **at** ↑**let** *v.*, mean to say **at** ↑**mean** *v.*, if you don't mind me/my saying so **at** ↑**mind** *v.*, needless to say **at** ↑**needless**, to be/go on (the) record (as saying...) **at** ↑**record** *n.*, no sooner said than done **at** ↑**soon**, I'm sorry to say **at** ↑**sorry** *adj.*, suffice (it) to say **at** ↑**suffice**, not have a good word to say for sb/sthsay/give the word **at** ↑**word** *n.*

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	say
	BrE /seɪ/
	NAmE /seɪ/
he / she /it	says
	BrE /seɪz/
	NAmE /seɪz/
past simple, past participle	said
	BrE /sed/
	NAmE /sed/
-ing form	saying
	BrE /seɪɪŋ/
	NAmE /seɪɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English secgan, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **zeggen** and German **sagen**.

Thesaurus:

say verb

1. T

- I didn't believe a word she said.

say • • **talk** •

say/speak/talk **to** sb

say sth/speak/talk **about** sth

2. T

- I said a quiet prayer to myself.

say • • **recite** • • **quote** •

say/repeat/recite/quote a **line**

3. T, I

- It's hard to say why he left.

say • • **voice** • • **air** • • **put** • • **phrase** • • **state** • |especially journalism **indicate** •

express/voice/air your **thoughts/opinions/views/concerns**

Say or express? **Express** is often followed by a noun describing a feeling or emotion; **say** cannot be used in this way

- to express your dissatisfaction/fear/horror/gratitude
- to say that you are dissatisfied/afraid/horrified/grateful

4. T, I (used especially in negative sentences and questions) (especially spoken)

- It's difficult to say when it will be finished.

say • • **forecast** • • **foresee** • • **prophecy** • |especially business **project** •

say/predict/forecast/foresee/prophecy **what/how/when/who/where/whether...**

be **difficult/impossible** to say/predict/forecast/foresee/project

say/forecast/predict sth **in advance**

5. T, no passive (especially spoken)

- Say you lose your job. What then?
- suppose • • imagine •**
- say/suppose/imagine **that...**
- let's just/let us** say/suppose/imagine that...

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:

- 'I am home,' he said simply.
- 'I don't know,' she said crossly.
- 'There's nothing wrong with him,' she said airily.
- 'Well, at least we tried!' he said with a shrug.
- 'You'll see!' Lianne said with a smile.
- A government spokesman was quoted as saying that they would take steps to restore order.
- Can you honestly say you're sorry?
- Do you have anything to say about this?
- I dare say they she'll come to the wedding.
- I dared not say a word about it to anyone.
- I hate to say it, but I think Stephen may be right.
- I have to say I didn't expect it to be so good.
- I heard him say they were leaving tomorrow.
- I want to say how much we have all enjoyed this evening.
- I've forgotten what I was going to say.
- It is fair to say a considerable amount of effort went into the project.
- Needless to say, it all went smoothly in the end.
- She wasn't at her best, it has to be said.
- Suffice it to say, I refused to get involved.
- That was a very cruel thing to say.
- That's not what he said to me.
- The minister was quoted as saying that the government would do whatever was necessary to restore order.
- 'When will it be finished?' 'I couldn't say.'
- 'Why can't I go out now?' 'Because I say so.'
- Anna thinks I'm lazy— what do you say?
- He said a quiet prayer to himself.
- I can't say I blame her for resigning.
- I didn't believe a word she said.
- I wouldn't like to say what the impact might be on my business.
- I wouldn't say they were rich.
- I'll say this for them, they're a very efficient company.
- It's difficult to say exactly where it will land.
- It's hard to say what caused the accident.
- Just say he refuses to talk to you.
- Say what you like about her, she's a fine singer.
- Say you lose your job. What then?
- Take any writer, say Dickens...
- Who can say what will happen between now and then?
- You could learn the basics in, let's say, three months.

Idioms: ↑I must say ▪ ↑I say ▪ ↑I wouldn't say no ▪ ↑I'll say! ▪ ↑before you can say Jack Robinson ▪ ↑go without saying ▪ have something/nothing to say for yourself ▪ ↑have your say ▪ ↑having said that ▪ it says a lot/very little for somebody ▪ ↑least said soonest mended ▪ ↑less said the better ▪ ↑neversay die ▪ ↑not say boo to a goose ▪ ↑not to say ▪ ↑say cheese ▪ ↑say no ▪ ↑say no more ▪ ↑say nothing of something ▪ ↑say the least ▪ ↑say what? ▪ ↑say when ▪ ↑say your piece ▪ ↑that is to say ▪ ↑that said ▪ ↑that's not saying much ▪ ↑there's no saying ▪ there's something/not much to be said for something sth ▪ ↑well said! ▪ ↑what do you say ▪ ↑what somebody says, goes ▪ ↑whatever you say ▪ ↑when all is said and done ▪ ↑who can say? ▪ ↑who says? ▪ ↑who's to say? ▪ ↑you can say that again ▪ ↑you can't say fairer ▪ ↑you don't say! ▪ ↑you said it!

noun singular, uncountable ~ (in sth)

the right to influence sth by giving your opinion before a decision is made

- We had no say in the decision to sell the company.
- People want a greater say in local government
- The judge has the final say on the sentence.

see also †say your piece

Word Origin:

Old English secgan, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **zeggen** and German **sagen**.

Example Bank:

- She won't be happy until she's had her say.

exclamation (NAmE, informal)

1. used for showing surprise or pleasure
 - Say, that's a nice haircut!
2. used for attracting sb's attention or for making a suggestion or comment
 - Say, how about going to a movie tonight?

Word Origin:

Old English secgan, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **zeggen** and German **sagen**.

See also: †not say boo to anyone

say

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **say**¹ **S1 W1** /seɪ/ **BrE** " **AmE** " **verb** (past tense and past participle **said** /sed/, third person singular **says** /sez/)

[Language: Old English; Origin: secgan]

1. **EXPRESS SOMETHING IN WORDS** [intransitive only in negatives, transitive] to express an idea, feeling, thought etc using words:

- " 'I'm so tired,' she said.
- " 'Don't cry,' he said softly.
- " Don't believe anything he says.

say (that)

- " A spokesman said that the company had improved its safety standards.
- " I always said I would buy a motorbike when I had enough money.

say how/why/who etc

- " Did she say what happened?
- " I would like to say how much we appreciate your hard work.
- " 'Why did she leave?' 'I don't know – she didn't say.'

say something to somebody

- " What did you say to her?

a terrible/silly/strange etc thing to say

- " What a silly thing to say!

say hello/goodbye/thank you etc (=say something to greet someone, thank someone etc)

- " She left without saying goodbye.

say you're sorry (=apologize)

- " I've said I'm sorry – what more do you want?

say yes/no (to something) (=agree or refuse)

- " Can I go, Mum? Oh, please say yes!

say nothing/anything/something (about something)

- " He looked as if he was going to say something.
- " I wished I had said nothing about Jordi.

have anything/nothing/something to say

- " Does anyone else have anything to say?
- " Although he didn't say so, it was clear that he was in pain.
- " What makes you say that (=why do you think that)?

say to do something (=tell someone to do something)

- " Nina said to meet her at 4.30.
- " I'd like to say a few words (=make a short speech).
- " 'So what are your plans now?' 'I'd rather not say.' ⇒ see *Thesaurus box on P. 1553*

GRAMMAR

You cannot 'say someone something' or 'say someone to do something'. Use **tell**:

- She told me (NOT said me) something shocking.
- He told me (NOT said me) to sit down.

You can **say something about something** but you cannot 'say about something'. Use **talk**:

- He did not talk about (NOT say about) his feelings.

REGISTER

In written English, people often avoid using **say** when referring to opinions or ideas expressed by another writer. Instead, they prefer to use a more formal verb such as **argue**, **assert**, **claim**, or **maintain**.

2. **GIVE INFORMATION** [transitive not in passive] to give information in the form of written words, numbers, or pictures – used about signs, clocks, letters, messages etc:

The sign said 'Back in 10 minutes'.

The clock said twenty past three.

say (that)

He received a letter saying that the appointment had been cancelled.

say to do something (=give information about what you should do)

The label says to take one tablet before meals.

say who/what/how etc

The card doesn't even say who sent the flowers.

It says here they have live music.

3. MEAN [transitive usually in progressive] used to talk about what someone means:

What do you think the writer is trying to say in this passage?

So what you're saying is, there's none left.

be saying (that)

Are you saying I'm fat?

I'm not saying it's a bad idea.

All I'm saying is that it might be better to wait a while.

4. THINK THAT SOMETHING IS TRUE [transitive]

used to talk about something that people think is true

they say/people say/ it is said (that)

They say that she has been all over the world.

It is said that he was a spy during the war.

somebody is said to be something/do something

He's said to be the richest man in the world.

Well, you know what they say – blood's thicker than water.

The rest, as they say, is history.

5. SHOW/BE A SIGN OF SOMETHING [transitive]

a) to show clearly that something is true about someone or something's character:

The kind of car you drive says what kind of person you are.

The fact that she never apologized says a lot about (=shows very clearly) what kind of person she is.

It said a lot for the manager (=it showed that he is good) that the team remained confident despite losing.

These results don't say much for the quality of teaching (=they show that it is not very good).

b) to show what someone is really feeling or thinking, especially without using words:

The look on her face said 'I love you.'

something says everything/says it all

His expression said it all.

6. SPEAK THE WORDS OF SOMETHING [transitive] to speak the words that are written in a play, poem, or prayer:

Can you say that line again, this time with more feeling?

I'll say a prayer for you.

7. PRONOUNCE [transitive] to pronounce a word or sound:

How do you say your last name?

8. SUGGEST/SUPPOSE SOMETHING [transitive usually in imperative] used when suggesting or supposing that something might happen or be true

... say ...

If we put out, say, twenty chairs, would that be enough?

let's say (that)/just say (that)

Let's say your plan fails, then what?

Just say you won the lottery – what would you do?

9. say to yourself to try to persuade yourself that something is true or not true:

I kept saying to myself that this wasn't really happening.

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SPOKEN PHRASES

10. I must say (also I have to say) used to emphasize what you are saying:

The cake does look good, I must say.

I have to say I was impressed.

11. I can't say (that) used to say that you do not think or feel something:

I can't say I envy her being married to him!

12. I would say used for giving your opinion even though other people may not agree:

I'd say he was jealous.

13. I couldn't say used when you do not know the answer to something:

I couldn't say who will win.

14. if I may say so (also if I might say so) formal used to be polite when saying something that may embarrass or offend the person you are talking to:

That's just the point, Mr Glover, if I may say so.

15. having said that used to say that something is true in spite of what you have just said:

The diet can make you slim without exercise. Having said that, however, exercise is important too.

16. wouldn't you say? used to ask someone whether they agree with the statement you have just made:

It seems very unlikely, wouldn't you say?

17. what do you say? used to ask someone if they agree with a suggestion:

We could go into partnership – what do you say?

What do you say we all go to a movie?

What would you say to a meal out?

18. **say no more** used to say that you understand what someone means, although they have not said it directly:

‘I saw him leaving her house at 6.30 this morning.’ ‘Say no more!’

19. **you can say that again!** used to say that you completely agree with someone:

‘It’s cold in here.’ ‘You can say that again!’

20. **you said it!**

a) used when someone says something that you agree with, although you would not have actually said it yourself because it is not polite:

‘I was always stubborn as a kid.’ ‘You said it!’

b) **especially American English** used to say that you agree with someone:

‘Let’s go home.’ ‘You said it! I’m tired.’

21. **who says?** used to say that you do not agree with a statement, opinion etc:

Who says museum work doesn’t pay?

22. **who can say?** (also **who’s to say?**) used to say that nobody can know something:

Who can say what will happen between now and then?

Many women believe that skin cream makes their skin look younger, and who’s to say that they’re wrong?

23. **you don’t say!** used to show you are surprised by what someone has told you – also often used when you are not at all surprised by what someone has told you

24. **say when** used to ask someone to tell you when to stop pouring them a drink or serving them food because they have got enough

25. **say cheese** used to tell people to smile when you are taking their photograph

26. **(just) say the word** used to tell someone that they have only to ask and you will do what they want:

Anywhere you want to go, just say the word.

27. **I’ll say this/that (much) for somebody** used when you want to mention something good about someone, especially when you have been criticizing them:

I will say this for Tom – at least he’s consistent.

You’ve got determination – I’ll say that for you.

28. **say what you like especially British English** used when giving an opinion that you are sure is correct, even if the person you are talking to might disagree with you:

Say what you like about him, he’s a very good writer.

29. **anything/whatever you say** used to tell someone that you agree to do what they want, accept their opinion etc, especially because you do not want an argument

30. **can’t say fairer than that British English** used to say that you have made the best offer that you can:

If I win, I’ll buy you a drink. Can’t say fairer than that.

31. **I wouldn’t say no (to something)** used to say that you would like something:

I wouldn’t say no to a coffee.

32. **I’ll say!** used to say yes to a question, in a strong way:

‘Was there a big argument?’ ‘I’ll say!’

33. **let’s just say** used when you do not want to give a lot of details about something:

Let’s just say she wasn’t very pleased about it.

34. **shall I/we say** used when you are not quite sure how to describe someone or something:

He is, shall we say, slightly unusual.

35. **what have you got to say for yourself?** used to ask someone for an explanation when they have done something wrong

36. **say what? informal especially American English** used when you did not hear what someone said or when you cannot believe that something is true

37. **I say British English old-fashioned**

a) used to get someone’s attention:

I say, don’t I know you?

b) used before giving your reaction to something:

‘My husband’s broken his leg.’ ‘I say! I’m sorry to hear that.’

38. **say something to sb’s face informal** to criticize someone or say something unpleasant directly to them instead of saying it to someone else:

I knew they wanted me to leave, even though they wouldn’t say it to my face.

39. **that’s not saying much** used to say that it is not surprising that someone or something is better than another person or thing because the other person or thing is so bad:

This version is better than the original, but that’s not saying much.

40. **to say the least** used to say that you could have described something, criticized someone etc a lot more severely than you have:

Jane could have been more considerate, to say the least.

41. **that is to say** used before giving more details or being more exact about something:

They, that’s to say Matt and John, were arguing about what to do.

42. **that is not to say** used to make sure the person you are talking to does not think something that is not true:

I’m quite happy in my job but that’s not to say I’m going to do it for the rest of my life.

43. **not to say especially British English** used when adding a stronger description of something:

The information is inadequate, not to say misleading.

44. **a lot/something/not much etc to be said for (doing) something** used to say that there are a lot of or not many advantages to something:

There’s a lot to be said for taking a few days off now and then.

It was a town with very little to be said for it.

45. **to say nothing of something** used to mention another thing involved in what you have just been talking about:

It wasn’t much for three years’ work, to say nothing of the money it had cost.

46. **have something to say about something** to be angry about something:

" Her father would have something to say about it.

47. **have a lot to say for yourself** to talk a lot

48. **not have much to say for yourself** to not talk very much

49. **what somebody says goes** used to emphasize who is in control in a situation:

" My wife wants to go to Italy this year, and what she says goes!

50. **say your piece** to give your opinion about something, especially something you do not like

⇒ **wouldn't say boo to a goose** at [↑]boo²(3), ⇒ **easier said than done** at [↑]easy²(4), ⇒ **enough said** at [↑]enough²(6), ⇒ **it goes without saying** at [↑]go without(2), ⇒ **needless to say** at [↑]needless(1), ⇒ **no sooner said than done** at [↑]soon(9), ⇒ **not say/breathe a word** at [↑]word¹(9), ⇒ **well said** at [↑]well¹(13), ⇒ **when all's said and done** at [↑]all¹(17)

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COLLOCATIONS

■ things that you say

- **say hello/goodbye** I came to say goodbye.
- **say thank you** I just wanted to say thank you for being there.
- **say sorry/say that you're sorry** It was probably too late to say sorry.
- **say yes/no** Some parents are unable to say no to their children.
- **say something/anything/nothing** I was about to say something to him when he looked up and smiled.
- **say some words** She stopped abruptly, suddenly afraid to say the words aloud.

■ adverbs

- **say so** If you don't know the answer, don't be afraid to say so.

■ phrases

- **a terrible/stupid/odd etc thing to say** I know it's a terrible thing to say, but I wish he'd just go away.
- **have something/anything/nothing to say** He usually has something to say about just about everything.

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THESAURUS

■ to say something

- **say** to tell someone something, using words: 'I really ought to go,' she said. | Lauren said she'd probably be late.
- **state** to say something, especially in a definite or formal way – used in official contexts: The witness stated that he had never seen the woman before. | Please state your name and address.
- **announce** to publicly tell people about something: The chairman announced his resignation. | The results will be announced tomorrow. | We will announce the winners next Sunday. | They were announcing the train times over the loudspeaker system.
- **declare** to say something very firmly: 'My personal life is none of your business,' she declared.
- **mention** to talk about someone or something, especially without giving many details: Did Tom mention anything about what happened at school? | Your name was mentioned!
- **express** to let someone know your feelings by putting them into words: Young children often find it difficult to express their emotions.
- **comment** to say what your opinion is about someone or something: The prime minister was asked to comment on the crisis.
- **note/remark** *formal* to say that you have noticed that something is true – used especially in formal writing: We have already noted that most old people live alone. | Someone once remarked that the problem with computers is that they only give you answers.
- **add** to say something more, after what has already been said: He added that he thought it could be done fairly cheaply.
- **point out** to mention something that seems particularly important or relevant: Dr Graham points out that most children show some signs of abnormal behaviour. | It's worth pointing out that few people actually die of this disease.
- **air** to talk about your opinions, worries, or the things you disagree about: **air your views/grievances/differences**: The programme will give listeners the chance to air their views about immigration. | Workers were able to air their grievances.
- **voice** to talk publicly about your feelings or about whether you approve or disapprove of something *formal*: **voice concern/support/doubt/fears etc**: The president has already voiced his support for the proposal. | She voiced concern for the safety of the hostages.

■ different ways of saying something

- **whisper** to say something very quietly, using your breath rather than your full voice: 'Don't wake the baby,' Jenny whispered.
- **mumble** to say something quietly without pronouncing the words clearly: He mumbled his thanks.
- **mutter** to say something quietly, especially when you are annoyed but do not want someone to hear you complaining: 'This is ridiculous,' he muttered under his breath. | She muttered something about having to go home early.
- **murmur** to say something in a soft slow gentle voice: She stroked his hair and murmured, 'Don't worry. You'll be all right.'
- **growl** to say something in a low angry voice: 'As I was saying,' Lewis growled, 'it needs to be finished today.'
- **snarl** to say something in a nasty angry way: 'Get out of my way!' he snarled.
- **exclaim** to say something suddenly and loudly: 'How beautiful!' she exclaimed.
- **blurt out** to suddenly say something without thinking, especially something embarrassing or secret: It was partly nervousness that had made him blurt out the question.
- **stammer/stutter** to speak with a lot of pauses and repeated sounds, because you have a speech problem, or because you are nervous or excited: 'I'll, I'll only be a m-moment,' he stammered.

II. **say**² *BrE* ^{AmE} *noun* [singular, uncountable]

1. the right to take part in deciding something

have some/no/little say in something

" The workers had no say in how the factory was run.

" The chairman has the final say (=has the right to make the final decision about something).

2. **have your say** to have the opportunity to give your opinion about something:

" You'll get a chance to have your say.

have your say in/on

Parents can have their say in the decision-making process.

III. **say**³ *BrE* *AmE* *interjection* *American English informal*

used to express surprise, or to get someone's attention so that you can tell them something:

Say, haven't I seen you before somewhere?

say

Freakuency Pack

12500 **33**^{MCW}

15000 **23**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **SAY** 2017641

say 390755

said 999103

unsaid 298

saying 104013

sayings 590

says 522882

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

68932 **174**²⁰⁴⁹⁵⁷ *vvi*

69760 **198**¹⁷⁹⁹²⁹ *vv0*

3661 **8077**⁴¹⁵⁷ *nn1*

1033 **18526**¹²²⁸ *rex44*

354 **36098**⁴⁰³ *jj*

53 **94989**⁶⁵ *nnu*

8 **294833**⁸ *pphs1*

4 **451043**⁴ *vbdv*

4 **451104**⁴ *vbz*