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See also: Appendix:Variations of "say" say (international standards) ISO 639-3 language code for Saya. Wiktionary’s coverage of Saya terms English Wikipedia has an article on:Wikipedia From Middle English seyen, seien, seggen, from Old English seċġan (“to say, speak”), from Proto-West Germanic *saggjan, from Proto-Germanic *sagjaną (“to say”), from Proto-Indo-European *sokʷ-h₁-yé-, a suffixed o-grade form of *sekʷ- (“to tell, talk”). Cognate with West Frisian sizze (“to say”), Low German seggen (“to say”), Dutch zeggen (“to say”), German sagen (“to say”), Danish sige (“to say”), Norwegian Bokmål si (“to say”), Norwegian Nynorsk seia (“to say”), Swedish säga (“to say”), Yiddish זאָגן (zogn, “to say; to tell”). The adverb and interjection are from the verb. saie, saye, seye (obsolete) thay, zay (pronunciation spelling) say (third-person singular simple present says, present participle saying, simple past and past participle said) (transitive) To pronounce. Please say your name slowly and clearly. (transitive) To recite. Martha, will you say the Pledge of Allegiance? 1918, W[illiam] B[abington] Maxwell, chapter VIII, in The Mirror and the Lamp, Indianapolis, Ind.: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, →OCLC, pages 53-54:Then everybody once more knelt, and soon the blessing was pronounced. The choir and the clergy trooped out slowly, […], down the nave to the western door. […] At a seemingly immense distance the surpliced group stopped to say the last prayer. (transitive) To tell, either verbally or in writing. He said he would be here tomorrow. 1897 December (indicated as 1898), Winston Churchill, chapter IV, in The Celebrity: An Episode, New York, N.Y.: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., →OCLC, page 46:No matter how early I came down, I would find him on the veranda, smoking cigarettes, or otherwise his man would be there with a message to say that his master would shortly join me if I would kindly wait. 1921, Ben Travers, chapter 1, in A Cuckoo in the Nest, Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Page & Company, published 1925, →OCLC:She was like a Beardsley Salome, he had said. And indeed she had the narrow eyes and the high cheekbone of that creature, and as nearly the sinuosity as is compatible with human symmetry. His wooing had been brief but incisive. 1967, Barbara Sleigh, Jessamy, Sevenoaks, Kent: Bloomsbury, published 1993, →ISBN, page 95:‘All right,’ said Jessamy. ‘I say, Miss Brindle said she’d think about you coming to see the house some time. I said I was sure you weren’t the stone throwing kind, not at windows, I mean.’ 2016, VOA Learning English (public domain) I want to say I’m sorry for yesterday. — It’s okay, Anna. For more quotations using this term, see Citations:say. (transitive) To indicate in a written form. The sign says it’s 50 kilometres to Paris. What time does it say on the clock? (Should we delete(+) this sense?) (impersonal, transitive) To have a common expression; used in singular passive voice or plural active voice to indicate a rumor or well-known fact. 1815, George Gordon Byron, “They say that Hope is happiness”, in The Hebrew Melodies:They say that Hope is happiness; But genuine Love must prize the past. 1819, Great Britain Court of Chancery, Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the High Court of Chancery, page 8:It is said, a bargain cannot be set aside upon inadequacy only. 1841, Christopher Marshall, The Knickerbocker (New-York Monthly Magazine), page 379:It’s said that fifteen wagon loads of ready-made clothes for the Virginia troops came to, and stay in, town to-night. (informal, imperative, transitive) Suppose, assume; used to mark an example, supposition or hypothesis. A holiday somewhere warm – Florida, say – would be nice. Say he refuses. What do we do then? Say your family is starving and you don't have any money, is it okay to steal some food? 1984, Martin Amis, Money: a suicide note:I've followed Selina down the strip, when we're shopping, say, and she strolls on ahead, wearing sawn-off jeans and a wash-withered T-shirt […] For more quotations using this term, see Citations:say. (intransitive) To speak; to express an opinion; to make answer; to reply. c. 1598–1600 (date written), William Shakespeare, “As You Like It”, in Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies […] (First Folio), London: […] Isaac Iaggard, and Ed[ward] Blount, published 1623, →OCLC, [Act III, scene ii], page 195:You have said; but whether wisely or no, let the forest judge (transitive, informal, of a possession, especially money) To bet as a wager on an outcome; by extension, used to express belief in an outcome by the speaker. 2005, Ian McEwan, Saturday, page 192:'My fifty pounds says three months after the invasion there'll be a free press in Iraq, and unmonitored internet access too.' See also: Thesaurus:utter say (plural says) A chance to speak; the right or power to influence or make a decision. To have a say 2004, Richard Rogers, Information politics on the Web:Above all, however, we would like to think that there is more to be decided, after the engines and after the humans have had their says. 2019 February 8, Kocha Olarn, Helen Regan, “This princess could be the next prime minister of Thailand”, in CNN International Edition[1], Cable News Network, retrieved 2019-02-08:He has consolidated the military's role in politics through an army-drafted 2017 constitution widely seen as designed to prevent Pheu Thai from returning to power and ensuring a continuing say for the army. 2019 March 22, Patpicha Tanakasempipat, Panarat Thepgumpanat, “Junta chief croons, ousted PM says 'we will win' in Thai election battle”, in Reuters[2], Reuters, retrieved 2019-03-23:Sunday’s general election has been cast as a high-stakes contest between democracy and military rule, but critics say a new army-backed constitution gives junta-appointed officials a large say in the next government. say (not comparable) For example; let us assume. Pick a color you think they'd like, say, peach. He was driving pretty fast, say, fifty miles per hour. 1894, T Miller, “Chapter 1”, in Over Five Seas and Oceans, From New York to Bangkok, Siam, and Return, New York: Albert Metz & Co., page 13:He was a very old man, and was heavy, say about 250 pounds. say (US, colloquial) Used to gain someone's attention before making an inquiry or suggestion Say, what did you think about the movie? (used to gain attention): hey William Dwight Whitney, Benjamin E[li] Smith, editors (1911), “say”, in The Century Dictionary […], New York, N.Y.: The Century Co., →OCLC. “say”, in Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary, Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam, 1913, →OCLC. From Middle French saie, from Latin saga, plural of sagum (“military cloak”). say (countable and uncountable, plural says) A type of fine cloth similar to serge. 1579, Immeritô [pseudonym; Edmund Spenser], “August. Ægloga Octaua.”, in The Shepheardes Calender: […], London: […] Iohn Wolfe for Iohn Harrison the yonger, […], →OCLC, folio 32, recto:Per.[igot] VVell decked in a frocke of gray, / Will.[y] hey ho, gray is greet, / Per. And in a kirtle of greene faye, / Will. the greene is for maydens meete. Aphetic form of assay. say (third-person singular simple present says, present participle saying, simple past and past participle sayed) To try; to assay. 1600 (first performance), Beniamin Ionson [i.e., Ben Jonson], “Cynthias Reuels, or The Fountayne of Selfe-Loue. […]”, in The Workes of Beniamin Ionson (First Folio), London: […] Will[iam] Stansby, published 1616, →OCLC, Act IV, scene i:I, that had sayed on one of his customers sutes. say (plural says) Trial by sample; assay; specimen. , page 193 If those principal works of God […] be but certain tastes and says, as if were, of that final benefit. c. 1603–1606, William Shakespeare, “The Tragedie of King Lear”, in Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies […] (First Folio), London: […] Isaac Iaggard, and Ed[ward] Blount, published 1623, →OCLC, [Act V, scene iii], page 308:Thy tongue some say of breeding breathes. Tried quality; temper; proof. Essay; trial; attempt. 1610 (first performance), Ben[jamin] Jonson, The Alchemist, London: […] Thomas Snodham, for Walter Burre, and are to be sold by Iohn Stepneth, […], published 1612, →OCLC, (please specify the Internet Archive page), (please specify the scene number in lowercase Roman numerals):This fellow, Captaine, Will come, in time, to be a great distiller, And giue a say […] at the philosophers stone. say (plural says) (Scotland) A strainer for milk. Deverbal from saymaq. say (definite accusative sayı, plural saylar) From Proto-Turkic *say. say (definite accusative sayı, plural saylar) shallow, shoal gəmi saya oturdu — the ship ran aground say Mirjejev, V. A., Usejinov, S. M. (2002) Ukrajins'ko-kryms'kotatars'kyj slovnyk [Ukrainian – Crimean Tatar Dictionary][3], Simferopol: Dolya, →ISBN say alternative form of assay say say say second-person singular imperative of saymak From Proto-Vietic *p-ri: (“drunk”); cognate with Muong khay, Arem pərɨ:. say • () say dầmsay khướtsay mêsay sóngsay sưasay xesay xỉn say • () deep ; fast (of sleep) ngủ say — fast asleep verbVerb Forms present simple I / you / we / they say he / she / it says past simple said past participle said -ing form saying Idioms jump to other results [intransitive, transitive] to speak or tell somebody something, using words + speech ‘Hello!’ she said.‘That was marvellous,’ said Daniel.A legendary football coach once said, ‘Winning is everything.’ In stories the subject often comes after said, says or say when it follows the actual words spoken, unless it is a pronoun. say something Be quiet, I have something to say.Come and say hello.Please say yes!I didn't believe a word she said.That's a terrible thing to say. say something to somebody She said nothing to me about it. say to somebody/yourself + speech I said to myself (= thought), ‘That can't be right!’ say (that)… He said (that) his name was Sam.Can I just say I'm not happy about this?I have to say I was pleasantly surprised. it is said that… It is said that she lived to be over 100. say 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.’ say to do something He said to meet him here. be said to be/have something He is said to have been a brilliant scholar.Express Yourself InterruptingInterruptingYou may need to say something when somebody else is speaking, or you may be chairing a discussion where you have to stop one person from talking too much. If you start talking at the same time as somebody else, this will seem rude. To interrupt politely, you can say, for example:Sorry to interrupt, but I have to disagree with that.Could I just say something here?If I could, let me stop you there for a moment and go back to your previous point.Actually, we seem to have strayed a bit from the topic. Can we go back to the first point?Just a moment, Sue. Can we hear what Jack has to say on this?May I interrupt you there? I don't think that's true. (formal)I’m sorry, but we’re running short on time. Can you please summarize very quickly so we can finish up? I appreciate your enthusiasm on this topic, but I’m afraid we have a couple more people to hear from. Could you two please discuss that issue privately after the meeting? We have several more items to cover and need to move on at this point. I’m sorry, I really have to stop you there. We've run out of time. Let’s save that conversation for another time.Which Word? say / tellsay / tellSay 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? Like say, 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? Tell is also used when you are giving somebody instructions:The doctor told me to stay in bed. NOTThe doctor said me to stay in bed.Extra Examples‘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?I dared not say a word about it to anyone.I heard him say they were leaving tomorrow.I've forgotten what I was going to say.Oxford Collocations Dictionaryadverbverb + saybe about tobe going tohasten to…prepositionphrasesbe quoted as saying somethinga thing to sayI have to say…See full entry [transitive] say something to repeat words, phrases, etc.to say a prayerTry to say that line with more conviction. [transitive, no passive] (of something that is written or can be seen) to give particular information or instructions + speech The notice said ‘Keep Out’. say something The clock said three o'clock. say (that)… The instructions say (that) we should leave it to set for four hours. say where, why, etc… The book doesn't say where he was born. say to do something The guidebook says to turn left. [transitive, intransitive] to express an opinion on something say something 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)? say (that)… I can't say I blame her for resigning (= I think she was right).I have to say I enjoyed every minute.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). say what, how, etc… It's hard to say what caused the accident.It's difficult to say whether the story is true.‘When will it be finished?’ ‘I couldn't say (= I don't know).‘Is it worth it? I would say not.Extra ExamplesDo you have anything to say about this?I wouldn't like to say what the impact might be on my business.She wasn't at her best, it has to be said.It's difficult to say exactly where it will land.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.It is fair to say a considerable amount of effort went into the project.Topics Opinion and argumentb1Oxford Collocations Dictionaryadverbverb + saybe about tobe going tohasten to…prepositionphrasesbe quoted as saying somethinga thing to sayI have to say…See full entry [transitive] to make thoughts, feelings, etc. clear to somebody by using words, looks, movements, etc. say something His angry glance said it all.Just what is the artist trying to say in her work? say something about somebody/something The museum's architects have managed to say something about our national story. [transitive] to show, sometimes indirectly, what somebody/something is like say something That says it all really, doesn't it? (= it shows clearly what is true) say something about somebody/something The incident says an awful lot about his character. say something to somebody This says to me that there is more here than you are letting on. [transitive, no passive] to suggest or give something as an example or a possibility say something/somebody You could learn the basics in, let's say, three months.Let’s take any writer, say (= for example) Dickens… say (that)… Say you lose your job: what would you do then?Just say he refuses to talk to you.Topics Suggestions and adviceb2 Word OriginOld English secgan, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch zeggen and German sagen.Idioms (saying) to be much more difficult to do than to talk about‘Why don't you get yourself a job?’ ‘That's easier said than done.’ before you can say Jack Robinson (old-fashioned) very quickly; in a very short time used to say that you understand a situation and there is no need to say any more‘He's a politician, remember.’ ‘Enough said.’ to be very obvious or easy to predictOf course I'll help you. That goes without saying. have something, nothing, etc. to say for yourself to be ready, unwilling, etc. to talk or give your views on somethingShe doesn't have much to say for herself (= doesn't take part in conversation).He had plenty to say for himself (= he had a lot of opinions and was willing to talk).Late again—what have you got to say for yourself (= what is your excuse)? have something to say (to somebody) about something to be angryHe knew that if he wasn't back by midnight, his parents would have something to say about it. having said that | that said (informal) used to introduce an opinion that makes what you have just said seem less strongI sometimes get worried in this job. Having said that, I enjoy doing it, it's a challenge.Topics Opinion and argumentc1 I dare say (also I daresay especially in British English) if you don’t mind me/my saying so… used when you are going to criticize somebody or say something that might upset themThat colour doesn't really suit you, if you don't mind my saying so. I hear what you're saying used to tell somebody that you have listened to their opinion, especially when you are going to express a different opinionI hear what you're saying, but you're wrong. (old-fashioned, informal) used for emphasis to say ‘yes’‘Does she see him often?’ ‘I'll say! Nearly every day.’ (informal) used when you are commenting on a situation and saying that you are happy about itMost teachers, I'm glad to say, take their jobs very seriously. used for saying that something is disappointingHe didn't accept the job, I'm sorry to say. (informal) used to emphasize an opinionWell, I must say, that's the funniest thing I've heard all week.Topics Opinion and argumentc1 I say (British English, old-fashioned, informal)used to express surprise, shock, etc. used to attract somebody’s attention or introduce a new subject of conversationI say, can you lend me five pounds? it says a lot, very little, etc. for somebody/something (informal) it shows a good/bad quality that somebody/something hasIt says a lot for her that she never lost her temper.It didn't say much for their efficiency that the order arrived a week late. I wouldn’t say no (to something) (informal) used to say that you would like something or to accept something that is offeredI wouldn't say no to a pizza.‘Tea, Brian?’ ‘I wouldn't say no.’ least said soonest mended (British English, saying) a bad situation will pass or be forgotten most quickly if nothing more is said about it the less/least said the better the best thing to do is say as little as possible about something used when commenting on a situation to suggest that you could say something more or worse but prefer not toLet’s just say he wasn't very happy about the decision (= he was very unhappy or angry about it). used when making a suggestion or giving an exampleI can let you have it for, well let's say £100. used to emphasize what you are saying or to ask somebody if they really mean what they sayI mean to say, you should have known how he would react!Do you mean to say you've lost it? used to emphasize that the information you are giving is obviousThe problem, needless to say, is the cost involved. (saying) do not stop hoping used to say that something was, or will be, done immediately not have a good word to say for somebody/something (informal) to never say anything good about somebody/somethingNobody had a good word to say about him. not say boo to a goose (British English) (North American English not say boo to anyone)to be very shy or gentleHe's so nervous he wouldn't say boo to a goose. used to introduce a stronger way of describing somethinga difficult, not to say impossible, task used to ask somebody to smile before you take their photograph (North American English, informal) to say something importantYou said a mouthful there, buddy. to refuse an offer, a suggestion, etc.If you don't invest in this, you're saying no to a potential fortune. (informal) used to say that you understand exactly what somebody means or is trying to say, so it is unnecessary to say anything more‘They went to Paris together.’ ‘Say no more!’ to say exactly what you feel or think (North American English, informal) used to express surprise at what somebody has just said‘He's getting married.’ ‘Say what?’ used to ask somebody to tell you when you should stop pouring a drink or serving food for them because they have enough to give an order; to make a requestJust say the word, and I'll go. suffice (it) to say (that)… used to suggest that although you could say more, what you do say will be enough to explain what you meanI won’t go into all the details. Suffice it to say that the whole event was a complete disaster. in other wordsthree days from now, that is to say on Friday see also i.e. that said | having said that used to say that something is not very unusual or specialShe's a better player than me, but that's not saying much (= because I am a very bad player). used to say that it is impossible to predict what might happenThere's no saying how he'll react. there’s something, not much, etc. to be said for something/doing something there are/are not good reasons for doing something, believing something or agreeing with somethingTopics Opinion and argumentc2 without making something seem better, worse, more serious, etc. than it really isI was surprised, to say the least. to say nothing of something used to introduce a further fact or thing in addition to those already mentioned synonym not to mentionIt was too expensive, to say nothing of the time it wasted. (informal) I agree completely‘We must stand up for ourselves.’ ‘Well said, John.’Topics Opinion and argumentc2 what do/would you say (to something/doing something) (informal) would you like something/to do something?What would you say to eating out tonight?Let's go away for a weekend. What do you say? what/whatever somebody says, goes (informal, often humorous) a particular person must be obeyedSarah wanted the kitchen painted green, and what she says, goes. when all is said and done when everything is consideredI know you're upset, but when all's said and done it isn't exactly a disaster. used to say that nobody knows the answer to a questionWho can say what will happen next year? (informal) used to disagree with a statement or an opinionTopics Opinion and argumentc2 used to say that something might happen or might have happened in a particular way, because nobody really knowsWho's to say we would not have succeeded if we'd had more time? (informal) I agree with you completely‘He's in a bad mood today.’ ‘You can say that again!’Topics Opinion and argumentc1 you can’t say fairer (than that) (British English, informal) used to say that you think the offer you are making is reasonable or generousLook, I'll give you £100 for it. You can't say fairer than that. (informal, often ironic) used to express surprise‘They left without us.’ ‘You don't say!’ (= I'm not surprised) (British English) used to agree with somebody when they say something about themselves that you would not have been rude enough to say yourself‘I know I'm not the world's greatest cook.’ ‘You said it!’Topics Opinion and argumentc2 (North American English) used to agree with somebody’s suggestionTopics Opinion and argumentc2, Suggestions and advicec2 See say in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee say in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English to utter or pronounce; speak.What did you say? I said “Hello!”to express in words; state; declare; word.Say it clearly and simply. It's hard to know how to say this tactfully.to state as an opinion or judgment.I say her plan is the better one.to be certain, precise, or assured about; determine.It is hard to say what is wrong.to recite or repeat.to report or allege; maintain.People say he will resign.to express (a message, viewpoint, etc.), as through a literary or other artistic medium.a writer with something to say.to indicate or show.What does your watch say?to assume as a hypothesis or estimate.Let's say, for the sake of argument, that it's true.to speak; declare; express an opinion.approximately; about.for example.If you serve, say tuna fish and potato chips, it will cost much less.what a person says or has to say.the right or opportunity to speak, decide, or exercise influence.to have one's say in choosing the candidate.a turn to say something.(used to express surprise, get attention, etc.)to speak, pronounce, or utter(also intr) to express (an idea) in words; tellwe asked his opinion but he refused to say(also intr; may take a clause as object) to state (an opinion, fact, etc) positively; declare; affirmto recite(may take a clause as object) to report or allegethey say we shall have rain today(may take a clause as object) to take as an assumption; supposelet us say that he is lying(may take a clause as object) to convey by means of artistic expressionthe artist in this painting is saying that we should look for hopeto make a case forthere is much to be said for either course of action(usually passive) to persuade or coax (someone) to do somethingIf I hadn't been said by her, I wouldn't be in this fixto be so obvious as to need no explanationinformal an exclamation of surpriseeven; and indeedin other words; more explicitlyas well as; even disregardinghe was warmly dressed in a shirt and heavy jumper, to say nothing of a thick overcoatwithout the slightest exaggeration; at the very least“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012approximatelythere were, say, 20 people presentfor examplechoose a number, say, four“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012the right or chance to speakauthority, esp to influence a decisionhe has a lot of say in the company's policya statement of opinionyou've had your say, now let me have mine“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012informal an exclamation to attract attention or express surprise, etc“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012archaic a type of fine woollen fabric“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Origin of say1First recorded before 900; Middle English seyen, seggen, Old English secgan; cognate with Dutch zeggen, German sagen, Old Norse segja; akin to saw 3Origin of say2First recorded in 1350–1400; Middle English saien, sayen, shortening of assaien, assayen to assayOrigin of say3First recorded in 1250–1300; Middle English sai(e), a kind of serge, from Old French saie, saye “long-skirted coat,” from Medieval Latin saia, sagum, a kind of cloth, from Latin saga, plural of sagum “coarse woolen cloak, soldier's cloak,” from Gaulish sogomOrigin of say1Old English secgan; related to Old Norse segja, Old Saxon seggian, Old High German sagênOrigin of say2C13: from Old French saie, from Latin saga, plural of sagum a type of woollen cloakExamples have not been reviewed.“You have all these club competitions on a confederation, continental level, right?” he said.“Yeah, I think you have to,” he said.Vicky Williams, associate director for women and children at Surrey Heartlands Intergrated Care System, said she hoped the sessions would raise awareness around the conditions.Russell says he sets more store by his team-mates' performances than their paperwork.Tournament organiser Conmebol defended the pitches, with director of competitions Fredirico Nantes saying "the grass in Atlanta posed absolutely no threat".Definitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.saxtubasayableBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC Also found in: Thesaurus, Legal, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (sā)v. said (sĕd), say·ing, says (sĕz) v.tr.1. To utter aloud; pronounce: The children said, "Good morning."2. To express in words: Say what's on your mind.3. a. To state as an opinion or judgment; declare: I say let's eat out.b. To state as a determination of fact: It's hard to say who is right in this matter.c. To report or maintain; allege: It is said he is a fraud.4. To repeat or recite: said grace.5. a. To indicate; show: The clock says half past two.b. To give nonverbal expression to; signify or embody: It was an act that said "devotion."6. To suppose; assume: Let's say that you're right.v.intr. To make a statement or express an opinion or judgment: The story must be true because the teacher said so.n.1. A turn or chance to speak: Having had my say, I sat down.2. The right or power to influence or make a decision: Citizens have a say in the councils of government. All I want is some say in the matter.3. Archaic Something said; a statement.adv.1. Approximately: There were, say, 500 people present.2. For instance: a woodwind, say an oboe.interj. Used to express surprise or appeal for someone's attention.Idioms: I say1. Used preceding an utterance to call attention to it: I say, do you have the time?2. Used as an exclamation of surprise, delight, or dismay. that is to say to say nothing of And there is no need to mention. Used to allude to things that fill out an idea or argument: The yard is a mess, to say nothing of the house. you can say that again Slang Used to express strong agreement with what has just been said.American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (seɪ) vb (mainly tr) , says (sɛz) , saying or said1. to speak, pronounce, or utter2. (also intr) to express (an idea) in words; tell: we asked his opinion but he refused to say. 3. (also intr; may take a clause as object) to state (an opinion, fact, etc) positively; declare; affirm4. to recite: to say grace. 5. (may take a clause as object) to report or allege: they say we shall have rain today. 6. (may take a clause as object) to take as an assumption; suppose: let us say that he is lying. 7. (may take a clause as object) to convey by means of artistic expression: the artist in this painting is saying that we should look for hope. 8. to make a case for: there is much to be said for either course of action. 9. (usually passive) Irish to persuade or coax (someone) to do something: If I hadn't been said by her, I wouldn't be in this fix. 10. go without saying to be so obvious as to need no explanation11. I say! chiefly informal Brit an exclamation of surprise12. not to say even; and indeed13. that is to say in other words; more explicitly14. to say nothing of as well as; even disregarding: he was warmly dressed in a shirt and heavy jumper, to say nothing of a thick overcoat. 15. to say the least without the slightest exaggeration; at the very leastadv16. approximately: there were, say, 20 people present. 17. for example: choose a number, say, four. n18. the right or chance to speak: let him have his say. 19. authority, esp to influence a decision: he has a lot of say in the company's policy. 20. a statement of opinion: you've had your say, now let me have mine. interjinformal US and Canadian an exclamation to attract attention or express surprise, etc[Old English secgan; related to Old Norse segja, Old Saxon seggian, Old High German sagēn] (seɪ) n (Textiles) archaic a type of fine woollen fabric[C13: from Old French saie, from Latin saga, plural of sagum a type of woollen cloak]Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (seɪ) v. said, say•ing, adv., n., interj. v.t. 1. to utter or pronounce; speak: to say a word. 2. to express in words; state; declare: Say what you think. 3. to state as an opinion or judgment: I say we should wait here. 5. to report or allege; maintain. 6. to express (a message, viewpoint, etc.), as through a literary or other artistic medium. 7. to indicate or show: What does your watch say? v.i. 8. to speak; declare; express an opinion, idea, etc. adv. 9. approximately; about: It's, say, 14 feet long. n. 11. what a person says or has to say. 12. the right or opportunity to state an opinion or exercise influence: to have one's say in a decision. 13. a turn to say something. interj. 14. (used to express surprise, get attention, etc.) Idioms: go without saying, to be completely self-evident. [before 900; Middle English seyen, seggen, Old English secgan; c. Dutch zeggen, German sagen, Old Norse segja; akin to saw3] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.1. 'say'When you say something, you use your voice to produce words. The past tense and -ed participle of say is said /sed/.You use say when you are quoting directly the words that someone has spoken.'I feel so happy,' she said.'The problem,' he said, 'is that Mr Sanchez is very upset.'In writing, you can use many other verbs instead of say when you are quoting someone's words.In spoken English, you usually use say.He said to me, 'What shall we do?'Be Careful!In speech, you mention the person and say before quoting their words. Don't say, for example, "What shall we do?' he said to me' in spoken English.You can use it after said to refer to the words spoken by someone.You could have said it a bit more politely.I just said it for something to say.If you are referring in a general way to what someone has expressed, rather than their actual words, use so, not 'it'. For example, say 'I disagree with him and I said so'. Don't say 'I disagree with him and I said it'.If you wanted more to eat, why didn't you say so earlier?I know she liked it because she said so.You can report what someone has said without quoting them directly using say and a that-clause.She said she hadn't slept very well.They said that smoking wasn't permitted anywhere in the building.Be Careful!Don't use 'say' with an indirect object. For example, don't say 'She said me that Mr Rai had left.' Say 'She said that Mr Rai had left' or 'She told me that Mr Rai had left.'2. 'tell'If you are mentioning the hearer as well as the speaker, you usually use tell, rather than 'say'. The past tense and -ed participle of tell is told. For example, instead of saying 'I said to him that his mother had arrived', say 'I told him that his mother had arrived'.'I have no intention of resigning,' he told the press.You say that someone tells a story, lie, or joke.Dad told jokes and stories.Be Careful!Don't say that someone 'says' a story, lie, or joke. Don't say, for example 'You're saying lies now'.3. 'ask'Don't say that someone 'says' a question. Say that they ask a question.Luka asked me a lot of questions about my job.I asked what time it was.4. 'give'Don't say that someone 'says' an order or instruction. Say that they give an order or instruction.Who gave the order for the men to shoot?She had given clear instructions about what to do while she was away.5. 'call'If you want to say that someone describes someone else in a particular way, you can use say followed by a that-clause. For example, you can say 'He said that I was a liar'. You can also say that someone calls someone something. For example, you can say 'He called me a liar'.She called me lazy and selfish.6. 'talk about'Don't use say to mention what someone is discussing. Don't say, for example, 'He said about his business'. Say 'He talked about his business'.Lucy talked about her childhood and her family. – say – tell1. 'speak'When you speak, you use your voice to produce words. The past tense of speak is spoke. The -ed participle is spoken.They spoke very enthusiastically about their trip.I've spoken to Raja and he agrees with me.2. 'say'Don't use 'speak' to report what someone says. Don't say, for example, 'He spoke that the doctor had arrived'. Say 'He said that the doctor had arrived'.I said that I would like to teach English.He said it was an accident.3. 'tell'If you mention the person who is being spoken to as well as what was said, use tell.He told me that he was a farmer.I told her what the doctor had said.4. 'talk'Collins COBUILD English Usage © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 2004, 2011, 2012Past participle: saidGerund: sayingImperativePresentPreteritePresent ContinuousPresent PerfectPast ContinuousPast PerfectFutureFuture PerfectFuture ContinuousPresent Perfect ContinuousPast Perfect ContinuousConditionalPast ConditionalCollins English Verb Tables © HarperCollins Publishers 2011 Noun1.say - the chance to speak; "let him have his say"chance, opportunity - a possibility due to a favorable combination of circumstances; "the holiday gave us the opportunity to visit Washington"; "now is your chance"Verb1.say - express in words; "He said that he wanted to marry her"; "tell me what is bothering you"; "state your opinion"; "state your name"present, lay out, represent - bring forward and present to the mind; "We presented the arguments to him"; "We cannot represent this knowledge to our formal reason"misstate - state something incorrectly; "You misstated my position"answer, reply, respond - react verbally; "She didn't want to answer"; "answer the question"; "We answered that we would accept the invitation"preface, premise, precede, introduce - furnish with a preface or introduction; "She always precedes her lectures with a joke"; "He prefaced his lecture with a critical remark about the institution"announce, declare - announce publicly or officially; "The President declared war"enunciate, vocalise, vocalize, articulate - express or state clearlysay - state as one's opinion or judgement; declare; "I say let's forget this whole business"get out - express with difficulty; "I managed to get out a few words"declare - state emphatically and authoritatively; "He declared that he needed more money to carry out the task he was charged with"declare - make a declaration (of dutiable goods) to a customs official; "Do you have anything to declare?"note, remark, mention, observe - make mention of; "She observed that his presentation took up too much time"; "They noted that it was a fine day to go sailing"add, append, supply - state or say further; "`It doesn't matter,' he supplied"explain - define; "The committee explained their plan for fund-raising to the Dean"give - convey or reveal information; "Give one's name"2.say - report or maintain; "He alleged that he was the victim of a crime"; "He said it was too late to intervene in the war"; "The registrar says that I owe the school money"plead - make an allegation in an action or other legal proceeding, especially answer the previous pleading of the other party by denying facts therein stated or by alleging new factsassert, asseverate, maintain - state categorically3.say - express a supposition; "Let us say that he did not tell the truth"; "Let's say you had a lot of money--what would you do?"speculate - talk over conjecturally, or review in an idle or casual way and with an element of doubt or without sufficient reason to reach a conclusion; "We were speculating whether the President had to resign after the scandal"4.say - have or contain a certain wording or form; "The passage reads as follows"; "What does the law say?"read - interpret something that is written or printed; "read the advertisement"; "Have you read Salman Rushdie?"feature, have - have as a feature; "This restaurant features the most famous chefs in France"5.say - give instructions to or direct somebody to do something with authority; "I said to him to go home"; "She ordered him to do the shopping"; "The mother told the child to get dressed"direct - command with authority; "He directed the children to do their homework"instruct - give instructions or directions for some task; "She instructed the students to work on their pronunciation"command, require - make someone do somethingrequest - ask (a person) to do something; "She asked him to be here at noon"; "I requested that she type the entire manuscript"send for, call - order, request, or command to come; "She was called into the director's office"; "Call the police!"warn - ask to go away; "The old man warned the children off his property"6.say - speak, pronounce, or utter in a certain way; "She pronounces French words in a funny way"; "I cannot say `zip wire'"; "Can the child sound out this complicated word?"enounce, enunciate, pronounce, sound out, articulatetwang - pronounce with a nasal twangdevoice - utter with tense vocal chordsraise - pronounce (vowels) by bringing the tongue closer to the roof of the mouth; "raise your `o'"lilt - articulate in a very careful and rhythmic waynasalise, nasalize - pronounce with a lowered velum; "She nasalizes all her vowels"nasalise, nasalize - speak nasally or through the nose; "In this part of the country, people tend to nasalize"aspirate - pronounce with aspiration; of stop soundsvocalize, voice, vocalise, sound - utter with vibrating vocal chordsretroflex - articulate (a consonant) with the tongue curled back against the palate; "Indian accents can be characterized by the fact that speakers retroflex their consonants"subvocalise, subvocalize - articulate without making audible sounds; "she was reading to herself and merely subvocalized"syllabise, syllabize - utter with distinct articulation of each syllable; "The poet syllabized the verses he read"drawl - lengthen and slow down or draw out; "drawl one's vowels"labialise, labialize, round - pronounce with rounded lipsaccent, accentuate, stress - put stress on; utter with an accent; "In Farsi, you accent the last syllable of each word"click - produce a click; "Xhosa speakers click"trill - pronounce with a trill, of the phoneme `r'; "Some speakers trill their r's"sibilate - pronounce with an initial sibilantflap - pronounce with a flap, of alveolar soundsexplode - cause to burst as a result of air pressure; of stop consonants like /p/, /t/, and /k/roll - pronounce with a roll, of the phoneme /r/; "She rolls her r's"7.say - communicate or express nonverbally; "What does this painting say?"; "Did his face say anything about how he felt?"say - indicate; "The clock says noon"convey - make known; pass on, of information; "She conveyed the message to me"8.say - utter aloud; "She said `Hello' to everyone in the office"9.say - state as one's opinion or judgement; declare; "I say let's forget this whole business"say, state, tell - express in words; "He said that he wanted to marry her"; "tell me what is bothering you"; "state your opinion"; "state your name"10.say - recite or repeat a fixed text; "Say grace"; "She said her `Hail Mary'"recite - repeat aloud from memory; "she recited a poem"; "The pupil recited his lesson for the day"11.say - indicate; "The clock says noon"record, register, read, show - indicate a certain reading; of gauges and instruments; "The thermometer showed thirteen degrees below zero"; "The gauge read `empty'"say - communicate or express nonverbally; "What does this painting say?"; "Did his face say anything about how he felt?"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.verb4. read, show, display