

Verbs causing difficulties to Czech speakers I: say, tell, speak, talk, give

Say

	Right	Wrong
řici/říkat co	say sth (nothing, hello, ...)	
	<i>She said nothing.</i>	<i>She told nothing.</i>
	<i>She said something about her job.</i>	<i>She told something about her job.</i>
řici/říkat komu co	say sth to sb	
	<i>She said nothing to me.</i>	<i>She said me nothing.</i>
řici/říkat, že	say (that)	
	<i>She said (that) she knew him.</i>	<i>She told (that) she knew him.</i>

Tell

	Right	Wrong
řici/říkat komu co	tell sb sth	
	<i>She told me nothing.</i>	<i>She said me nothing.</i>
řici komu, aby ...	tell sb to do sth	
	<i>He told us to sit down.</i>	<i>He said us to sit down.</i>
vyprávět komu co	tell (sb) sth	
	<i>He told (us) a long story.</i>	<i>He said (us) a long story.</i>

Compare: *She **said nothing** about her plans.*

*She **told me nothing** about her plans.*

*She **said nothing to me** about her plans.*

*She **said nothing** about her plans **to me**.* (not to me but probably to someone else)

Speak/Talk

	Right	Wrong
mluvit o čem/kom	speak/talk about sth/sb	
	<i>She spoke/talked about her job.</i>	<i>She told about her job.</i>
	<i>He spoke/talked about his colleague.</i>	<i>He told about his colleague.</i>

Remember:

*I'll **give** you an example, some information.* (řeknu vám příklad, informaci)

Similarly: ***give** a presentation/lecture/talk on*

EXERCISES

I. Correct the following sentences.

1. He said us about this problem.

.....

2. I would like to tell you some general information.

.....

3. It is difficult to tell about it.

.....

4. He didn't say about his results.

.....
5. I can say you the results.
.....

6. I would like to speak a few words about our Faculty.
.....

7. When I talked to my colleague, he said me that the experiment had failed.
.....

8. He told that he wouldn't be able to help us.
.....

9. To say the truth, I was quite unaware of this fact.
.....

10. She said me the meeting was cancelled.
.....

11. She told about their problems at great length.
.....

II. Fill the gaps with the right forms of the verbs "say, tell, give, speak, talk".

1. She nothing about her experiment at that conference.

2. She us nothing about her experiment at that conference.

3. She nothing us about her experiment at that conference.

4. She about her experiment at that conference.

5. She us some brief information about her experiment.

6. Yesterday he me that he would come.

7. She about her stay abroad at our last seminar.

8. Can you me what to do next?

9. As I have already , this method requires special equipment.

10. I'll about wind power plants in my next presentation.

11. She something about her new job but I have forgotten what.

12. He that the company had improved its safety standards.

13. Could you us another example?

14. Dr Brown a series of lectures on the latest developments in power electronics.

III. Translate.

1. Mluvil o svých výsledcích na semináři minulý týden.
.....

2. Řekl nám o svých výsledcích na semináři minulý týden.
.....

3. Neřekl nic o svých výsledcích na semináři minulý týden.
.....

4. Řekl, že o svých výsledcích už mluvil .
.....

5. To je vše, co jsem chtěl říci.
.....

6. Chci vám říci něco o solární energii.
.....

7. Už jsem vám tuto informaci řekl.
.....

8. Rád bych řekl několik slov o našem projektu.

.....

9. Řekla, že schůze byla zrušena.

.....

10. Řekla mi, že schůze byla zrušena.

.....