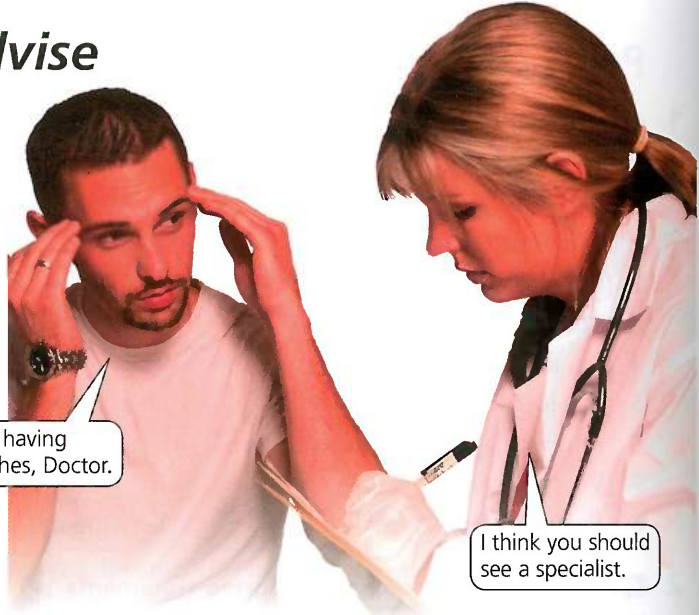# 87 *say, tell, ask, advise*



Jack **told the doctor** that he was still having headaches and she **advised him to see** a specialist.

> I'm still having headaches, Doctor.

> I think you should see a specialist.

## 1 *say* and *tell*

We use the verbs *say* and *tell* to report information.
Look at the differences between *say* and *tell*:

| SAY | TELL |
|---|---|
| Jack **said that** he was still having headaches. Jack **said to me that** he was still having headaches. | Jack **told me that** he was still having headaches. |

⚠ ✗ ~~Jack said me that he was still having headaches.~~
✗ ~~Jack told that he was still having headaches.~~
✗ ~~Jack told to me that he was still having headaches.~~

> **NATURAL ENGLISH** In everyday English, we often use *say* and *tell* without *that*:
> Lucy **said** (that) **she'd meet** us at six o'clock.
> He **told me** (that) **he couldn't come** to the party.

🔊 Pronunciation ➤ 1.31

## 2 *tell*, *ask* and *advise*

When we report instructions, requests and advice, we can use *tell*, *ask* and *advise*.
With these verbs, we use the infinitive with *to*:
'Be quiet!' → She **told me to be quiet.**

⚠ We put *not* BEFORE the infinitive with *to*:

'Don't touch the oven!' → ✗ ~~She told me don't touch the oven.~~
✓ She told me **not to touch** the oven.

- instructions:
  TEACHER *'Don't talk during the lesson!'* → Our teacher **told us not to talk** during the lesson.
- requests:
  MOTHER *'Please phone home, Anna.'* → Anna's mother **asked her to phone** home.
- advice:
  DOCTOR *'I think you should see a specialist.'* → Jack's doctor **advised him to see** a specialist.

Verb + object + infinitive ➤ Unit 85.1