say and tell have different uses in English:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 forms: say / says / said / said / saying</th>
<th>5 forms: tell / tells / told / told / telling</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>say something to somebody</td>
<td>tell somebody something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object is a thing, e.g. 'say something'</td>
<td>object is a person, e.g. 'tell me'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more general target: say sth to people in general</td>
<td>more specific target: tell sby something specific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>used in direct speech: &quot;Good morning,&quot; said John. and reported speech: John said good morning.</td>
<td>tell: information, opinion, problem, order, secret, lie, gossip, joke, the time, tales</td>
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say

say something to somebody
object is a thing, e.g. 'say something'
more general target: say sth to people in general
used in direct speech: "Good morning," said John.

and

tell

tell somebody something
object is a person, e.g. 'tell me'
more specific target: tell sby something specific
tell: information, opinion, problem, order, secret, lie, gossip, joke, the time, tales

talk and speak are physical actions. Their meanings are quite similar, with a few key differences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 forms: talk / talks / talked / talked / talking</th>
<th>5 forms: speak / speaks / spoke / spoken / speaking</th>
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<tr>
<td>talk to somebody about something</td>
<td>speak to somebody about something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more informal: talk with family and friends</td>
<td>more formal: speak with people in authority and groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more common in spoken English</td>
<td>less common – occurs in fewer situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talk about anything: our family, work, feelings, problems, plans, etc.</td>
<td>speak about important matters, issues, situations, speak a language</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete each gap with say, tell, talk, or speak in the appropriate form:

1. Generally ________, there will be room for around a hundred guests at the wedding.
2. Look, would you just ________ me the truth about Brian, please?
3. ‘And then she told me to get lost!’ ‘What an awful thing to ________!’
4. When Janet resigned in front of the board, I was so shocked I could hardly ________!
5. Robbie ________ a joke in class, but nobody saw the funny side of it.
6. Could you ________ up a bit, please? I’m a bit deaf.
7. I’ll give you the stuffing with the turkey for free. Now, I can’t ________ fairer than that.
8. ‘John said the company is close to collapse!’ ‘No! He’s ________ utter rubbish.’
9. It’s vital that I ________ to my doctor about the test results that I got.
10. Peter ________ good morning to Alice when he met her in the car park.
11. Darren has really enjoyed ________ to his kids on the way home from Scotland.
12. ‘You can’t park here, mate.’ ‘OK, whatever you ________.’
13. Just stop ________ me what to do!
14. When the plane had finally landed, we got in a taxi and ________ for hours.
15. My sister was ________ on the phone to her music teacher for half an hour.
16. I was trying to ________ them about the paintings, but they preferred the gift shop.
17. Geoff? Good. Phil here. OK. We need to ________ business.
18. OK, everyone get ready. I’m going to take the picture. ________ cheese!
19. I didn’t know that you ________ Norwegian fluently.
20. The grass snake was as big as a python – I’m ________ you!

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