

**Dan**

Hi, everyone! Think of **tell** and you think of speaking, but **tell** doesn't always mean **tell**. Let me **tell** you why... OK that time I meant speaking.

Not only does the verb **tell** mean 'say something to someone', it also has a meaning similar to 'know', 'recognise', 'understand', or 'perceive'.

We often use it in combination with the verb 'can' to make **can tell** for the present and **'could tell'** for the past.

**I can tell he's from France. He has an accent!**

Or: **We could tell it was going to rain because of the clouds.**

We often use it to talk about differences. Then, we might use the negative or the question.

**Can you tell the difference between this cup and that cup? I can't tell the difference between this cup and that cup.**

We often use **can tell** with the pronoun 'you' to talk about something that many people should find obvious.

**You can tell he's an English teacher** – he knows all the answers.