

StorySheet: DIALOGUE

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Dialogue is the fancy word we use when characters are speaking out loud in a story. Unlike in real life, your reader don't need to know *everything* your character might say. Dialogue should be chosen carefully. We think of it like adding salt to your food - a little bit is good, but a lot can be too much! Good writers use dialogue when they want to show something about their characters and to move the story along. Follow the rules and examples below for using dialogue in your story.



Rules of Dialogue

- For every new speaker, start a new line.
- Quotation marks are placed around the words spoken.
- Capitalize the first letter inside the quotation marks.
- Commas and periods go inside the quotation marks.
- Tell who is speaking before or after the dialogue or else your reader will get confused.
- It's okay to just use 'She said' or 'He said' - keep it simple!
- Sometimes, you might want to include a tag with more information. You could add detail around how the words are spoken, and tags with more information!

Give it a try. Create a dialogue below by selecting what is said, how it is said and adding a tag.

1. Choose what is said:

"It's you,"
"What's up?"
"I'm so glad to see you,"

2. Choose how it was said:

-she or he, whispered, yelled,
announced, growled, chirped,

3. Add a tag:

-her face like stone
-smiling shyly.
-eagerly.

Now put it together in the space below.
For example: "It's you," she whispered,
her face like stone.

1. What is said goes inside **quotation marks**: "Hello,"
2. Add **how** it is said: "Hello," *she whispered*.
3. Add a **tag** with more information: "Hello," she whispered **quietly**.

Dialogue Checklist: Read through your story and use this checklist to make sure you have followed the rules of dialogue.

- I used a new line for a new speaker
- I used quotation marks around the spoken words
- The first letter inside quotation marks is a capital
- I used a comma or period before the end quotation mark
- I added who and how it was said
- I included a tag with more information

Date:

Name: