

Dialogue: Speakers & Punctuation

Read and write short dialogue so readers can tell who is speaking and how speech fits the sentence.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Read and write short dialogue so readers can tell who is speaking and how speech fits the sentence.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 Quotation marks can show a character's exact spoken words in common English conventions.

2 A new speaker normally begins a new paragraph in extended dialogue.

3 Dialogue tags and actions can identify speakers without repeating names every time.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Add quotation marks and punctuation to three short lines.

Identify the speaker in a two-person scene.

Rewrite repeated “said” tags using actions where appropriate.

Start a new paragraph when the speaker changes.

Write a four-line dialogue that sounds natural and advances a scene.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Act out a short two-person conversation and notice where the speaker changes.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a mini comic and then convert the speech bubbles into correctly punctuated prose dialogue.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Why begin a new paragraph for a new speaker?

2. What is the job of a dialogue tag?

3. Can actions help identify speakers?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Dialogue: Speakers & Punctuation”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

To make speaker changes clear.

2. Suggested response

It links speech to the speaker and can show how it is said.

3. Suggested response

Yes.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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