

# Scripts Style Guide

We're excited that you want to add a script to this project! In order for our program to be able to analyze the script, we need it to be in a specific format that it can understand. In this guide, you'll find all the information on how to format the script, along with tips for making the process as easy as possible!

## Style Guide

Note: after you have finished formatting a script, please send it to us as a .txt file.

In order for the program to read the scripts, each line in the script must be tagged so the program knows how to categorize that line.

To tell the program which character is speaking, before the character has a line, there must be a tag like this: CHARACTER\_NAME<<(name)>>

Then, for spoken lines, use the tag: LINE<<(name)>>

So, if the script says something like this:

HARRY What are you doing, Ron?

RON I don't know, mate.

You would format it like this:

CHARACTER\_NAME<<HARRY>> LINE<<What are you doing, Ron?>>

CHARACTER\_NAME<<RON>> LINE<<I don't know, mate.>>

And so on.

For descriptions in the scripts that tell what is happening on-screen or how the camera is moving, but that aren't spoken by the characters, use the tag DIRECTION<< >>

For example, a script might say something like this:

FADE IN. There is a fog around Hogwarts. Harry and Ron are running to Hagrid's.

So, the correct format would be:

DIRECTION<<FADE IN. There is a fog around Hogwarts. Harry and Ron are running to Hagrid's.>>

Finally, many scripts include the scene name and a description after. Those are formatted like this:

SCENE\_NUMBER<<(number)>> SCENE\_DESCRIPTION<<(description)>>

For example, if something like this appears in the script:

12 INT. MAIN HALL: Students gather for a meal at the long tables.

It would be formatted like this:

SCENE\_NUMBER<<12>> SCENE\_DESCRIPTION<<INT. MAIN HALL: Students gather for a meal at the long tables.>>

Another important note is that often a script will have a line spoken by a character, then a direction, then another line by the same character, denoted by a (Cont'd). If you come across that, format it as a direction. So, if it says,

HARRY (cont'd)

We need to go. Now.

Format it like this: CHARACTER\_NAME<<HARRY>> DIRECTION<<(cont'd)>>  
LINE<<We need to go. Now.>>

And that's all you need to know for tagging scripts! So, to summarize, make sure character names are labeled before their lines, and anything that isn't a character name, line, or scene number should be labeled as a direction.

Here's a longer example so you can see what it would look like:

51 INT. COMMON ROOM: Harry and Ron sit on their beds facing each other. Harry picks up a box of chocolates on his bed. HARRY

Do you know who this is from?

RON No idea.

Harry opens the box and finds a note inside.

HARRY It's from Cho!

Harry looks confused as he reads the note.

HARRY (cont'd) She's inviting me to the winter ball.

And here's how that would look formatted:

SCENE\_NUMBER<<51>> SCENE\_DESCRIPTION<<INT. COMMON ROOM: Harry and Ron sit on their beds facing each other.>> DIRECTION<<Harry picks up a box of chocolates on his bed.>> CHARACTER\_NAME<<HARRY>> LINE<<Do you know who this is from?>> CHARACTER\_NAME<<RON>> LINE<<No idea.>> DIRECTION<<Harry opens the box and finds a note inside.>> CHARACTER\_NAME<<HARRY>> LINE<<It's from Cho!>> DIRECTION<<Harry looks confused as he reads the note.>> CHARACTER\_NAME<<HARRY>> DIRECTION<<(cont'd)>> LINE<<She's inviting me to the winter ball.>>

## Finding the Scripts

There are a few different ways to find the script you're looking for. It's always a good idea to start by Googling the title of the movie and then "script" or "screenplay" to see if it's easily available. If it's available on [scripts.com](http://scripts.com), [screenplaysandscripts.com](http://screenplaysandscripts.com), or [springfieldspringfield.co.uk](http://springfieldspringfield.co.uk), those are often reliable sources. Sometimes they won't have any character tags though, which means you should search elsewhere or, if you really want to, watch the film and following along to tag lines. If you are able to find multiple, the final version or the latest version available is preferred.

If no script is available, you can search for a transcript. Usually, these are available on a Wiki site (which would have ".fandom.com" in the url). While not preferred to the actual script, transcripts on Wiki sites are usually accurate and will work for our project.

If you are only able to find a script or transcript with the lines but without directions, that works too—the lines are most important for the program.

## Tools to Format Scripts

You can format the scripts in a number of programs, but going through and doing it manually, line by line, can take up a lot of time. The application Atom, which is available for download for free on your computer, can make the process a lot smoother. Here is what the application icon looks like:

To use Atom, you'll just need to copy and paste the script into a new file. Then, select "Find" at the top and click "Replace in Buffer." This will open up a bar at the bottom, where you can find and replace various pieces of text.

To help you in formatting, click the button that looks like this in the toolbar:

This means that the toolbar will now use the Regex language, and a few simple symbols can make your job much easier.

If you put a carrot (this symbol: ^) at the start of the "Find in current buffer" box, that will signify that whatever comes after the symbol will be the start of the line. A dollar sign (\$) at the end of the box signifies the end of the line. Finally, typing a backslash and lowercase n (\n) means that you will find (or replace) an enter.

This button means that whatever you type to find will be case sensitive:

You can use combinations of these to make your job easier with just a bit of creative thinking. For example, often times, character names that signify that character is

speaking are capitalized. So, in the “Find” box, after clicking the Regex and case sensitive buttons, you could type: `^HARRY`. Then, in the replace box, type: `CHARACTER_NAME<<HARRY>>`. This will replace every occurrence of the name Harry, in all capitals, at the start of the line, with the correct character tag. You can do this for all characters that speak in the script.

Then, depending on whether your scripts have more directions or lines, you can type into the find box just a carrot: `^` and in the replace box, put either “`LINE<<`” or “`DIRECTION<<`.” Then you will only need to go through and manually change lines or directions, rather than tagging each one individually.

To add brackets to the end of every line, just type into the Find box: `$` And in the Replace box, put: `>>`.

You can play around with these tools in Atom to find what works best for the script you’re working on, depending on the formatting of the script. Of course, you’re welcome to use any program and method, so long as the scripts are in the correct format as listed under the “Style Guide” section above, but Atom is one way to make your job easier.

That’s all! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us. We appreciate your interest in adding to this project, and we can’t wait to see what scripts you choose to add!