

DIALOGUE REFERENCE SHEET

What is dialogue?

Dialogue is the conversation between two or more characters in a story.



Dialogue Tips:

- Dialogue can “show” action within the story instead of “telling” the reader what is happening.
- Dialogue shows the character’s personality by what they *say*.

Dialogue RULES:

1. Start a **new paragraph** [enter] and **indent** [tab] each time a different person speaks.
2. Put the exact words of a speaker in quotation marks.
3. Set off the quoted words from the rest of the sentence using a comma and **CAPITALIZE** the *beginning* of the dialogue.

Jen asked, “Do you have after-school help?”

“Not today,” **Mrs. Pratt replied, “but maybe tomorrow.”**

OR

“**N**ot today,” Mrs. Pratt replied. “**M**aybe tomorrow.”

4. At the end of the quoted words, put a period, comma, or exclamation point **INSIDE** the quotation marks.

“I’m home,” my mother exclaimed.

“That’s great!” I answered.

5. Make the words sound like everyday conversation!

