

Dialogue

**My head
feels
extremely
heavy.**

**Silly! That's
because our
heads are
disproportionate
to our bodies.**



Definition

- **Dialogue is conversation in a story (or really anytime something is said aloud).**
- **When you write dialogue, you stating a person's exact words.**

Purpose

- **Dialogue makes a story more interesting. It can reveal what a character thinks or feels. It also shows what a character's like (personality).**

Rules for Indenting

- **When writing dialogue, start a new paragraph each time the person speaking changes.**
 - **This means you must indent!**
- “ Hey, come over here, y’all!”
called Jill to her friends as
they got out of the car.**

Rules for the Spoken Words

- **The speaker's words should be set apart from the rest of the sentence with quotation marks (“ ”).**
- **Ex: “How do you do?” asked Ellen.**

Rules for Punctuation

- **Begin the first word of the spoken part with a capital letter.**
- **Place end punctuation inside the quotation marks.**
- **Ex: “Look at that!”**

More Rules

- **A comma separates the speaker (tag) from the spoken words.**
- **Ex: The doctor stated, “I think you will feel better soon.”**
- **Ex: “I think you will feel better soon”, the doctor stated.**

More Rules

- However, if the dialogue ends in a question mark or an exclamation point, do not add a comma – when the spoken part is before the tag.
- Ex: “I can’t believe I’m going to H !!!”

Rules Continued

- **The spoken words are sometimes interrupted in the middle.** End the first part of the spoken words with quotation marks. Begin the second with quotation marks. Use commas to separate the spoken words from the tag.
- **Ex: “Do you realize,” asked Rod, “that we forgot the raft?”**
- **Ex: “It’s too late now,” I said. “We’ll have to come back later.”**

Rules Continued

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- **Ex: “Do you realize,” asked Rod, “that we forgot the raft?”**
- **Ex: “It’s too late now,” I said. “We’ll have to come back later.”**