

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 7 AND 8 WRITING/HOMEWORK 3**NAME (FIRST AND LAST):** _____ **GRADE:** _____

Writing Dialogue

Nothing marks a beginning writer faster than improperly punctuated dialogue.

Learn these rules, and you'll avoid obvious mistakes:

1. Use a comma between the dialogue and the tag line (the words used to identify the speaker: "he said/she said"):

"I would like to go to the beach this weekend," she told him as they left the apartment.
2. Periods, question marks, dashes, and exclamation points and commas go **inside** the quotation marks; other punctuation :

"I don't want any stupid cake," says the guy who goes to Europe and the Middle East. "Where's the champagne?" he says, and laughs.
3. When a tag line interrupts a sentence, it should be set off by commas. Note that the first letter of the second half of the sentence is in lower case, as in this example from Flannery O'Connor's "Greenleaf":

"That is," Wesley said, "that neither you nor me is her boy..."
4. To signal a quotation within a quotation, use single quotes:
"Have you read 'Hills Like White Elephants' yet?" he asked her.
5. For interior dialogue, this means when a character is thinking, italics are appropriate, just be consistent.
6. If a quotation spills out over more than one paragraph, don't use end quotes at the close of the first paragraph. Use them only when a character is done speaking.

Punctuating Dialogue

Revise each sentence below, adding quotation marks and other punctuation where necessary.

1. Now you know why I couldn't wait to get here said Esteban.
2. Wouldn't it be wonderful to stay and watch the sunset Peter asked.
3. I'd love to do that said Gilda but we forgot to bring flashlights to guide us back down.
4. Maybe you forgot to bring a flashlight said Carol. I never go hiking without one.
5. Hooray cheered Gilda. Does that mean we can stay?
6. Maybe we should ask Harry said Ray. He's the one who has to carry two backpacks.
7. Oh, right said Harry. You know as well as I do that the race was a tie.
8. Did someone say it was a tie?
9. Ray, how can you say that? You were a mile behind me!
10. Tan said I'm starving! Lets eat first and argue later, okay?

Read the statement above the four choices, then choose the correct punctuation.

1. Gus looked at us and shouted Take those wet clothes off
 - A. Gus looked at us and shouted "Take those wet clothes off!"
 - B. Gus looked at us and shouted, "Take those wet clothes off!"
 - C. Gus looked at us and shouted "Take those wet clothes off"!
 - D. Gus looked at us and shouted "Take those wet clothes off."

2. A stone that makes gold and stops you ever dying said Harry no wonder Snape's after it
- A. A stone that makes gold and stops you ever dying. Said Harry, "No wonder Snape's after it."
 - B. "A stone that makes gold and stops you ever dying!" said Harry. "No wonder Snape's after it!"
 - C. "A stone that makes gold and stops you ever dying," said Harry! "No wonder Snape's after it."
 - D. "A stone that makes gold and stops you ever dying!," said Harry. "No wonder Snape's after it!"
3. No insisted the spoiled child as she stomped her foot.
- A. No, insisted the spoiled child as she stomped her foot.
 - B. "No," insisted the spoiled child as she stomped her foot.
 - C. "No! insisted the spoiled child," as she stomped her foot.
 - D. "No!" insisted the spoiled child as she stomped her foot.
4. Marley asked did Dad say that he was going to pick us up at 9?
- A. Marley asked, "did Dad say that he was going to pick us up at 9?"
 - B. Marley asked, "Did Dad say that he was going to pick us up at 9?"
 - C. Marley asked did Dad say that he was going to pick us up at 9? (no change)
 - D. Marley asked "Did Dad say that he was going to pick us up at 9?"
5. When you get to the beach insisted Betty please call me to let me know you made it there.
- A. When you get to the beach insisted Betty, please call me to let me know you made it there.
 - B. "When you get to the beach," insisted Betty, "please call me to let me know you made it there."
 - C. "When you get to the beach," insisted Betty, "Please call me to let me know you made it there."
 - D. "When you get to the beach," insisted Betty, please call me to let me know you made it there.
6. Did she say may I go
- A. Did she say may I go?
 - B. Did she say "May I go?"
 - C. Did she say, "May I go?"?
 - D. Did she say, "May I go?"

7. Greta said I want to go home so we took her there instead of with us.
 A. Greta said "I want to go home" so we took her there instead of with us.
 B. Greta said, "I want to go home" so we took her there instead of with us.
 C. Greta said, "I want to go home," so we took her there instead of with us.
 D. Greta said "I want to go home," so we took her there instead of with us.
8. She said he said hurry up.
 A. She said, "He said, 'Hurry up.' "
 B. She said, "He said, "Hurry up."
 C. She said, he said, "Hurry up."
 D. She said, "He said, hurry up."
9. He asked when you will be there.
 A. He asked, when you will be there?
 B. He asked "When you will be there?"
 C. He asked when you will be there?
 D. He asked when you will be there. (no change)
10. Do you agree with the saying all's fair in love and war?
 A. Do you agree with the saying, "All's fair in love and war"?
 B. Do you agree with the saying, "All's fair in love and war?"
 C. Do you agree with the saying "All's fair in love and war"?
 D. Do you agree with the saying, "all's fair in love and war"?

Write out the text below with proper punctuation and broken up into paragraphs.

Within five minutes the snow was falling so hard we couldn't see the streetlights. I went into full panic mode. Where was my father? My mother said don't worry—he's a good driver. He'll be okay. Do you really think so I asked. Yes I do she said. She put her arm around me and hugged me close to her. Together we stood at the window and watched the storm. Have you ever seen it snow like this before I asked like it will never stop? My mother waited a moment before she answered. Never she said never.

Choose one of the following scenarios for your dialogue assignment. Use more paper if necessary or type it out.

Two friends go camping in the woods and argue about noises in the night.

A little girl is afraid something is in her closet and her mother is telling her there's no such thing as ghosts.

Two siblings are wondering about a bad smell coming from Uncle's room.

A child is trying to convince a parent to go 'trick or treating' at an old abandoned house.

A friend is trying to persuade another friend to help cheat on a test.

Write a short dialogue different from the one you worked on in class. This exercise doesn't have to be a complete story but it will be more interesting if you can work some rising action and resolution into the dialogue. Don't forget to make your characters interesting (weird names, weird habits etc.). Use more paper and attach if needed. Good luck and have fun writing!

The dialogue must

1. be punctuated correctly,
 2. have three or four different speakers (characters),
 3. reveal something about the characters,
 4. add to a plot or move a plot along in some way and
 5. reveal something about the setting.
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THE END