

SPaG Knowledge Organiser: Writing Dialogue

Key Vocabulary

inverted commas:

Punctuation marks - “ ” - used to demarcate direct speech in a sentence.

direct speech: A sentence where the exact words spoken are represented and shown in inverted commas.

dialogue: A conversation or speech that is written down as part of a piece of narrative text.

Try to remember...

Break up your dialogue with extra information and description to keep your reader interested and wanting to read more.

Starting Out!

Recognising what is being said.

If Caleb told me that he wanted an ice cream, Caleb could say the words:

I want an ice cream.

Use It!

Now, write what is being said as direct speech. You will need to correctly punctuate the direct speech using **inverted commas**, a **capital letter** to introduce the speech, a piece of **punctuation** at the end of what is being said and a **reporting clause** to tell the reader who is speaking.

“I want an ice cream,” Caleb told me.

Extend It!

To create an extended piece of **dialogue**, you will now need to include a response to what the previous speaker has said.

Each time a new person speaks, use a new line.

“I want an ice cream,”
Caleb told me.

“Well, you can’t have one!” I snappily replied.

“Why not?”

“Mum told you that you can’t have a snack before your lunch,” I explained.

In extended pieces of dialogue, it is not always necessary to use a reporting clause for every piece of direct speech, as long as it is obvious who would have said it.

Become an Expert!

To become an expert at writing dialogue, try using the reporting clause at the beginning of the sentence. You may also wish to add in extra information:

Whilst stamping his feet and waving his hands towards the cart, Caleb shouted, “I want an ice cream!”

“Well, you can’t have one!” I snappily replied, tired of having the same conversation over and over.

“Can you please,” I reiterated, “stop irritating me!”

Congratulations – you have reached expert status!