

Guidelines for Writing Dialogue

- Use dialogue to show a character's personality, or how a character thinks or feels: *"Of course," Sam smiled, "I'd love to help."*
- Use dialogue to let characters tell story events: *"Look out!" Christa yelled. "She's stealing second base!"*
- Write dialogue that sounds like real people speaking.
- Avoid overusing the word *said*. Try using more exact words, such as *snapped, pleaded, shouted, and asked*.
- Use correct capitalization and dialogue so that readers can easily follow what was said.

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