



## Dialogue RULES!

There are two main parts to writing dialogue:

- 1) The quote (the words being said) “Today, we are writing dialogue,”
- 2) The dialogue tag (who is speaking, and how) Miss Guetter explained.

### **RULE #1: A direct quotation begins with a capital letter.**

Wyatt shouted, “See you at the game!”

“What time is it?” asked Easton.

Jared replied, “It’s at 4:00.”

### **RULE #2: When a quotation is interrupted into two parts with words like “he asked” or “the teacher demanded,” the second part begins with a lowercase letter.**

Let’s visit the museum,” suggested Gracie.

Liberty replied, “Didn’t we go there last weekend?”

“But when we did,” Lauren added, “we didn’t see the Ancient Egypt exhibit.”

### **RULE #3: When writing dialogue, all punctuation marks at the end of the quotation go inside the quotation marks.**

“What is something that makes school so much fun?” Noah inquired.

Levi replied, “One thing I like is recess!”

“I like volleyball practice,” chimed in Graysen.

### **RULE #4: Do not put a period at the end of a quotation followed by things like she said, mom asked, he explained, etc. Use commas, question marks, and exclamation marks but not periods. Periods end sentences.**

“My Language class is driving me crazy!” Owen yelled.

“That’s my favorite class,” McKenzie replied.

### **RULE #5: Make a new paragraph (indent) when a different person begins to speak.**

“Last night, I dreamt that I ate a giant marshmallow,” Jack said.

“Was that anything like the dream you had about eating your way through a mountain of French fries?” asked Asher.

“Scarier,” Jack explained. “This time I woke up and my pillow was gone.”

### **OTHER REMINDERS:**

-Always make it clear who is speaking in the dialogue.

-Try to avoid using the word “said” repeatedly.

