



Module Two

Task: Dialogue

Creating effective dialogue takes practice. It's a fine balance between creating believable, genuine dialogue and not waffling on about the weather. Dialogue should:

- be sharp and concise
- capture the voice of the character
- keep the story moving forward
- reveal who the character is.

You don't have to include absolutely everything a character might say in a particular situation. Only include relevant sections of dialogue.

When you read picture books, pay attention to the way the author has created dialogue.

Another thing to note, is that 'said' is preferable to all other speech attributions, like 'yelled', 'explained' and 'replied'. The only exceptions might be 'whispered' or 'asked'. But where possible, just write: 'said'. Let the dialogue itself show the reader how the character might say it.

Task: Write a dialogue-only piece between two characters. Keep the dialogue sharp and concise. Where possible, only use 'said'. You might like to see if you can get rid of speech tags altogether and see if you can make the characters sound different from each other.

