**Punctuating Dialogue**

***Dialogue (version one)***

I was walking through the mall one day when I met a group of my friends. Hey, what are you doing here? I asked. I thought you guys had to stay after school today. No, we got out of that detention, said Mary. Mrs. Jones decided we really didn’t deserve it. Sue said, Are you here to shop or browse? A little bit of both, I replied, because I need to find a birthday card for my cousin, but I really want to check out the sales. And the boys! everyone laughed.

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**Punctuating Dialogue**

***Dialogue (version two)***

I was walking through the mall one day when I met a group of my friends. “Hey, what are you doing here?” I asked. “I thought you guys had to stay after school today.”

“No, we got out of that detention,” said Mary. “Mrs. Jones decided we really didn’t deserve it.”

Sue said, “Are you here to shop or browse?”

“A little bit of both,” I replied, “because I need to find a birthday card for my cousin, but I really want to check out the sales.”

“And the boys!” everyone laughed.

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“And the boys!” everyone laughed.

**Punctuating Dialogue**

***Dialogue Assessment Requirements***

Write a short dialogue different from the one finished in class during. Remember the dialogue is not a complete story and has no narration.

The dialogue must :

1. be punctuated correctly,

2. have three or four different speakers (characters),

3. reveal something about the characters,

4. add to the plot or move the plot along in some way and

5. reveal something about the setting.

**Punctuating Dialogue-Scoring Guidelines for Post-Assessment**

***4-***

• All punctuating dialogue conventions are correct.

• The dialogue is among three or four characters.

• The dialogue conveys something about each character (e.g., a trait, a distinctive way of speaking, etc…).

• The dialogue moves the plot in some way.

• The dialogue gives a clear indication of physical setting or time period.

***3-***

• Very few errors in dialogue conventions.

• The dialogue is among three or four characters.

• The dialogue conveys something about some of the characters.

• The dialogue moves the plot in some way.

• The dialogue gives clear indication of physical setting or time period.

***2-***

• dialogue conventions are inconsistent.

• The dialogue is among three or four characters.

• The dialogue conveys something about at least one of the characters.

• The dialogue adds something to the plot.

• The dialogue gives some indication of physical setting or time period.

***1-***

• Many errors in dialogue conventions.

• The dialogue is between only two characters.

• The dialogue conveys nothing about the characters.

• The dialogue adds nothing to the plot.

• The dialogue does not indicate physical setting or time period.

**Punctuating Dialogue Rules**

1. Indent for each new speaker. (New speaker = New paragraph)

2. Only the exact words of the speaker go inside quotation marks.

3. The words used to identify the speaker are called the tag line (e.g., Mary said or Jane replied). Words like said, replied, screamed, etc. are never capitalized in a tag line.

4. There are three types of tag lines

a. Before the quote: the comma always follows the tag line and the beginning letter of the quote is always capitalized (e.g., Jon asked, “Where did everyone go?”).

b. After the quote: the ending punctuation after the actual quote (before the tag line) can never be a period (e.g., “Every one decided to go,” said Jon.). If the sentence would normally end with a period, substitute a comma. An exception to this rule is end marks for questions or exclamations (e.g.,“Where did everyone go?” asked Jon).

c. In the Middle of the quote:

1) In between two separate sentences (quotes): a period follows the tag line and the beginning of the second sentence (quote) is capitalized (e.g., “I have a dog,” said Jane. “Do you have any pets?”).

2) When the tag line splits one sentence (quote) into two parts: a comma follows the first part of the quote and the tag line (e.g., “I have two dogs,” said Jane, “that fight all the time.”).

**Punctuating Dialogue**

***Review and Practice***

1. peggy said i have two cats do you have any pets

2. i have two dogs three fish and seven snails said joe

3. i have two cats said peggy do you have any pets

4. i’m not sure said sue if i know how to do this test

***Punctuating Dialogue Practice-Independently***

1. has he brought any papers home asked mother

2. he shook the tree so hard said joan that the apples fell to the ground

3. we’re going to write an editorial today said mr cumberland

4. get out of here she said before i call the police

5. dad said let’s go to eagle park if it doesn’t rain

6. i’ve never been to california remarked jane maybe my family will go this summer

***Punctuating Dialogue Practice-From One Story***

peggy said why are you here so early

i’m not sure said sue if i have a detention this morning or not

i don’t think there are any detentions today said fred

are you kidding asked sue i can’t believe i got up early for nothing

***Dialogue for Punctuation Practice:***

***Showing Characterization, Setting and Plot***

get your room cleaned up mother said or you’re not going to the show. chris shouted that’s not fair it’s joe’s room too. joe will be home later to take care of his half now are you going to get started mother scolded. i guess so muttered chris why doesn’t joe ever have to do anything around here? he does plenty mom said. chris said i never see him do much of anything but study. well answered mom you’re never around very much.

**Punctuating Dialogue**

***Questions/Answers (for the teacher)***

1. Q: How many different speakers are there? A: Three – ‘I’ or the narrator, Mary, Sue and the three of them in unison

2. Q: Who says, “Hey, what are you doing here?” A: ‘I’ or the narrator

3. Q: Who says, “No, we got out of that detention”? A: Mary

4. Q: Who says, “Mrs. Jones decided we really didn’t deserve it”? A: Mary

5. Q: Who says, “And the boys!”? A: All three of the speakers in unison

***Review and Practice Answers***

1. Peggy said, “I have two cats. Do you have any pets?”

2. “I have two dogs, three fish and seven snails,” said Joe.

3. “I have two cats,” said Peggy. “Do you have any pets?”

4. “I’m not sure,” said Sue, “if I know how to do this test.”

***Punctuating Dialogue Practice Answers***

1. “Has he brought any papers home?” asked Mother.

2. “He shook the tree so hard,” said Joan, “that the apples fell to the ground. ”

3. “We’re going to write an editorial today,” said Mr. Cumberland.

4. “Get out of here,” she said, “before I call the police. (or!)”

5. Dad said, “Let’s go to Eagle Park if it doesn’t rain.”

6. “I’ve never been to California,” remarked Jane. “Maybe my family will go this summer.”

***Punctuating Dialogue Practice Quiz Answers***

Peggy said, “Why are you here so early?”

“I’m not sure,” said Sue, “if I have a detention this morning or not.”

“I don’t think there are any detentions today,” said Fred.

“Are you kidding?” asked Sue. “I can’t believe I got up early for nothing!”

***Dialogue for Punctuation Practice:***

***Showing Characterization, Setting and Plot Answers***

“Get your room cleaned up,” Mother said, “or you’re not going to the show!”

Chris shouted, “That’s not fair!It’s Joe’s room too!”

“Joe will be home later to take care of his half. Now are you going to get started?” Mother scolded.

“I guess so,” muttered Chris. “Why doesn’t Joe ever have to do anything around here?”

“He does plenty,” Mom said.

Chris said, “I never see him do much of anything but study.”

“Well,” answered Mom, “you’re never around very much.”