Teaching Dialogue in Writing

Teaching ideas
- Posters
- Hands-on center
- Practice writing passage

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Using Dialogue in our Writing

There are many reasons why good writers use dialogue in their writing. Some reasons we use dialogue in our writing are to add detail, re-live a scene, or to reveal more information to the reader about our character's personality traits.

Karen, want to come over after school and see my new puppy?

Hey John! Yeah! I heard your new puppy is so cute! I can't wait to meet him!
Rules for Editing Dialogue in Your Writing

1.) Quotation marks show where the exact words of a speaker begin and end.
   ex: "Katie, let's go to the mall today," Camilla exclaimed.

2.) A comma separates the quotation from the words that tell who is speaking.
   ex: "Katie, let's go to the mall today," Camilla said.

3.) A question mark or exclamation point takes the place of the comma. This means you put the question mark or exclamation point before the end quotation, and skip the comma.
   ex: "Katie, do you want to go to the mall today?" Camilla asked.

4.) Some quotations are divided in two. If quotations are divided, don't capitalize the second part of the sentence, and use commas to separate the quotation from the speaker.
   ex: "Katie, if we go to the mall," Camilla said, "you can buy a gift for your mom."

5.) If the divided quotation is two sentences, use a period after the words that tell who is speaking. Capitalize the first word of the new sentence.
   ex: "Katie, do you want to go to the mall?" Camilla asked. "Then you can buy those pants you wanted."
**Rules for Editing Dialogue in Your Writing**

6.) Every time a speaker changes, start a new paragraph. This means you go to a new line and indent the line with each new speaker.
   
   **ex:** (See below to see indentation)
   
   "Katie, if we go to the mall," Camilla said, "you can buy a gift for your mom."
   
   "Yeah, that sounds great, Camilla!" Katie responded.

7.) Capitalize the first word in a quotation, when it starts the sentence.
   
   **ex:** "Katie, let's go to the mall today," Camilla said.

8.) When writing the quotation and speaker, if the words go to a new line, do not indent the new lines.
   
   **ex:** "Katie, if we go to the mall," Camilla said, "you can buy a gift for your mom."

9.) After the dialogue (when starting the story again) start a new paragraph. This means go to a new line and indent.
   
   **ex:** (See below to see indentation)
   
   "Katie, do you want to go to the mall?" Camilla asked.
   
   The two girls loved going to the mall together, and would go almost every weekend to meet friends.
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</table>
I told him Papa was fine and handed him the slip my grandpa had given me. They sure are some fine looking pups he said. You'll have to go around to the door. I'm sure my feet never touched the ground as I flew around the building. He unlocked the door, and I stepped in, looking for my dogs. I couldn't see anything but boxes, barrels, old trunks, and some rolls of barbed wire. The kindly stationmaster walked over to one of the boxes. Do you want box and all he asked. I told him I didn't want the box. All I wanted was the dogs. How are you going to carry them he asked. I think they're a little too young to follow.
Student gluing unedited version of dialogue passage into her writing notebook (glue the passage on one side, and edit on the opposite side).
I told him Papa was fine and handed him the slip my grandpa had given me.

"They sure are some fine looking pups," he said.

"You'll have to go around to the door."

I'm sure my feet never touched the ground as I flew around the building. He unlocked the door, and I stepped in, looking for my dogs. I couldn't see anything but boxes, barrels, old trunks, and some rolls of barbed wire.

The kindly stationmaster walked over to one of the boxes.

"Do you want box and all?" he asked.

I told him I didn't want the box. All I wanted was the dogs.

"How are you going to carry them?" he asked. "I think they're a little too young to follow."
Teacher can put unedited version on overhead or document camera and can model the correct punctuation of the paragraph by rewriting it with students in a guided lesson, or students can write independently and check their work with edited version of paragraph.
Punctuating Dialogue Center

Directions:

1.) Split students into groups, or have them work individually.
2.) Make enough pages so each group or individual student has their own copy of each page.
3.) Cut out the individual pieces from every page and store in an envelope.
4.) Hand out each envelope to students or have them ready in a center.
5.) Instruct students to sort the speaking parts, speaker, and punctuation in order to make correctly punctuated dialogue sentences.
6.) There are enough pieces in the center for students to punctuate and make 10 sentences.
7.) Instruct students to write the completed dialogue with correct punctuation on the recording sheet.
8.) Answer keys will vary with different use of speakers (dialogue tags), but have students refer to the answer key to check their work.
Did you study for the test today?

I am going to go camping this weekend with my friends.

Mom, the baby won’t stop crying.

I got an A on my math test.

I studied for my math test for 3 days.
That was a great touchdown you scored

Hey, quit touching my things

Will we have a test tomorrow

I don't like homework

I would like a hamburger instead of pizza
Punctuating Dialogue Center

Brett grumbled
Sarah Screamed
Katie questioned
Kyle announced
remarked Greg

Alex bragged
Ryan responded
Kara confessed
Hunter exclaimed
Jennifer demanded
Write the completed dialogue with proper punctuation below:

[1.)

[2.)

[3.)

[4.)

[5.)

More room on the back...
Write the completed dialogue with proper punctuation below:

6.)

7.)

8.)

9.)

10.)
1. “Did you study for the test today?” Katie questioned.

2. “I am going to go camping this weekend with my friends!” Hunter exclaimed.

3. “Mom, the baby won’t stop crying!” Sarah screamed.

4. “I got an A on my math test,” Alex bragged.

5. “I studied for my math test for 3 days,” remarked Greg.
6.) "That was a great touchdown you scored!" Kyle announced.

7.) "Hey, quit touching my things!" Jennifer demanded.

8.) "Will we have a test tomorrow?" Brett grumbled.

9.) "I don't like homework!" Kara confessed.

10.) "I would like a hamburger instead of pizza," Ryan responded.
Check out my blog by clicking HERE and HERE to see more lessons and picture book ideas to help you teach writing dialogue!
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