



Play-time

CAPS: Grade 5, Term 3

Writing and Presenting

Writes a short dialogue/play script using a frame:
Uses direct speech

Note

A *monologue* is speaking by one person (mono means one), usually to entertain.
A *dialogue* is a conversation between two or more people.

Activity 1

Oral dialogue: Choose one of the scenes below (or one of your own) and with your desk partner, pretend to be the characters. Notice, when you speak to each other, there is no *he said / she said*. You can see each other and both of you know who you are talking to.

An example of what might be said has been given.

Example

Setting	Characters	Situation
Home	Policeman and home owner	reporting burglary
Setting: a private home		Characters: Policeman and home owner
1st: POLICEMAN	<i>[knocking on front door]</i> Hello. Is anybody home?	
2nd: HOMEOWNER	<i>[opening front door]</i> Good evening, officer. May I help you?	
POLICEMAN	Yes. I believe you reported a burglary?	
HOMEOWNER	No. Not me. What address do you have?	
POLICEMAN	<i>[looking at his notebook]</i> Let me see. Yes, here it is – 6 Hayle Avenue	
HOMEOWNER	No, we are number 9.	
POLICEMAN	Strange, because I see the number 6 on your front door.	
HOMEOWNER	<i>[laughing]</i> Oops! The top screw came out and the 9 slipped down and now looks like a 6. I must get it fixed.	
POLICEMAN	<i>[chuckling]</i> No bother. Show me where number 6 is and I'll be on my way.	
HOMEOWNER	Certainly. They are two houses down the road on the left, red door, you can't miss it. <i>[points down the road]</i>	
POLICEMAN	Many thanks for your help. Sorry to have bothered you. Goodbye. <i>[walks off, waving]</i>	
HOMEOWNER	No problem. Good night, officer. <i>[shuts front door]</i>	

See how each person gets a turn to speak? You can give characters names if you wish. Whatever is written in brackets [usually an action] is not spoken aloud. Instructions for actions do not have to be included, but they can make the dialogue more fun, especially when it is acted out.

Written dialogue: Now, choose one of the scenes below (or one of your own) and, using the example in Section 1 above to guide you, write a short dialogue between two people. Have each person speak no more than 10 to 12 times.

- Astrid failed her History test and is worried her teacher will be angry.
- You spilled water on your family's computer and now it won't work.
- Susan broke her dad's favorite coffee mug.
- Paul let the dogs outside and they dug up his mom's newly-planted vegetable garden.

- to learn the vocabulary and dialogue style of plays
- to practise writing dialogue in a short play or situation
- to find ways to engage in real-life situations and solve real-life problems

When time allows, have learners act out their little plays for the class. Good oral practice.