

NAPLAN Juicy Dialogue Toolkit

for Year 3 Storytellers



Learn to make your characters talk like real people!

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☰ What's Inside This Toolkit?

1. What is Dialogue? (The Basics) - Page 3

2. Dialogue Rules Made Easy - Page 4

3. Making Characters Sound Different - Page 5

4. Dialogue Tags - Who's Talking? - Page 6

5. Emotions in Dialogue - Page 7

6. Dialogue Starters and Responses - Page 8

7. Common Conversation Types - Page 9

8. Dialogue in Different Story Types - Page 10

9. 30 Juicy Dialogue Examples - Page 11

10. Dialogue Practice Activities - Page 15

11. Putting It All Together - Page 16

12. Sample Stories with Great Dialogue - Page 17

13. Quick Reference Guide - Page 20

✍ Ready to make your stories come alive? ✍

Why Dialogue Makes Stories Exciting!

What is Dialogue?

Dialogue is when characters in your story talk to each other! It's like listening to real people having a conversation.



💡 Why Do We Need Dialogue in Stories?



Shows Feelings

We can tell how characters feel by what they say!



Makes Action

Dialogue helps move the story forward quickly!



More Fun

Stories with talking are more interesting to read!

💬 Let's Look at an Example!

Without Dialogue (Boring!):

Emma was happy when she saw the puppy. She wanted to keep it. Her mum said no.

With Dialogue (Exciting!):

"Oh my goodness! Look at this adorable puppy!" Emma squealed.

"Please, Mum, can we keep him?" she begged.

"I'm sorry, sweetie, but we can't have a dog right now," Mum replied gently.

See how much more exciting the second version is? That's the power of dialogue!

Section 1: What is Dialogue? (The Basics)

What Exactly is Dialogue?

Dialogue is the words that characters say to each other in your story. It's like when you talk to your friends, but we write it down!



Real talking → Written down → Story dialogue

Why Do Characters Need to Talk?

To Share Information

"The treasure is hidden behind the old oak tree!"

To Ask for Help

"Can you help me find my lost kitten?"

To Show Feelings

"I'm so scared of the dark!"
whispered Tom.

To Make Plans

"Let's meet at the playground after school!"

Dialogue vs Description

Dialogue (Characters Talking)

"I love ice cream!" said Sarah.

Description (Author Telling)

Sarah loved ice cream. It was her favourite treat. Ben was

"What's your favourite flavour?" asked Ben.

curious about what flavour she liked best.

Both are important, but dialogue makes stories more exciting!

How Dialogue Makes Stories Come Alive



Shows Personality

We learn what characters are like



Creates Excitement

Makes readers want to keep reading



Builds Relationships

Shows how characters get along

★ Fun Fact!

In your favourite movies and TV shows, almost everything the characters say is dialogue! That's what makes them so fun to watch. Now you can make your stories just as exciting!

Page 4



Section 2: Dialogue Rules Made Easy

“ Speech Marks (Quotation Marks)

Speech marks are like little houses for the words that characters say. They go around the talking parts!

“ Hello, how are you? ”

The speech marks wrap around what the character says

✓ **Correct:**

"I love playing football," said Jake.

✗ **Wrong:**

I love playing football, said Jake.

A Capital Letters at the Start

Always start what a character says with a big (capital) letter, just like starting a new sentence!

"What time is it?" asked Mum.

"It's three o'clock," replied Dad.

"Time for tea!" shouted Grandma.

! Punctuation Inside Speech Marks

Full stops, question marks, and exclamation marks go **INSIDE** the speech marks!

Full Stop

"I'm hungry."

Question Mark

"Are you okay?"

Exclamation Mark

"That's amazing!"


↓ New Line for New Speaker

When a different person starts talking, start a new line. It's like taking turns!

👤 "Can we go to the park?" asked Emma.

👤 "Yes, but finish your homework first," said Mum.

👤 "I'll do it right now!" Emma replied excitedly.

 "Good girl," Mum smiled.

✖ Common Mistakes to Avoid

✖ Mistake 1:

Forgetting speech marks
Hello there said the cat.

✔ Correct:

Using speech marks properly
"Hello there," said the cat.

✖ Mistake 2:

Wrong punctuation place
"How are you"? asked Tom.

✔ Correct:

Punctuation inside marks
"How are you?" asked Tom.

Memory Trick!

Remember: Speech marks are like putting a fence around a garden. Everything the character says stays inside the fence (speech marks), including the full stop, question mark, or exclamation mark!

Page 5

Section 3: Making Characters Sound Different

How Different People Talk Differently

Just like people look different, they also talk differently! This makes your characters special and real.



**Small
Children**

"Me want
cookie!"

Kids Your Age
"That's so cool!"

Teachers
"Please raise
your hand."

Grandparents
"In my day..."



Age Differences in Speech

Little Kids (3-5 years old):

Use simple words:

- "Me hungry"
- "That mine!"
- "Where Mummy?"

Make little mistakes:

- "I goed to park"
- "Two foots"
- "I can't find my teddy bear nowhere"

Kids Your Age (8-9 years old):

Use words you know:

- "That's awesome!"
- "Can I have a go?"
- "I don't get it"

Talk about kid things:

- Games and sports
- School and friends
- Pets and toys

Adults (Mums, Dads, Teachers):

Use proper grammar:

- "Please tidy your room"
- "I'm very proud of you"
- "Let's discuss this calmly"

Talk about grown-up things:

- Work and responsibilities
- Rules and safety
- Planning and organising



Personality Through Dialogue

🔇 Shy Characters

- Speak quietly
- Use few words
- Say "um" and "er" a lot

"Um... could I... maybe... sit here?"

Bold Characters

😄 Funny Characters

- Make jokes
- Use silly words
- Say unexpected things

"Why did the banana go to the doctor? Because it wasn't peeling well!"

- Speak loudly and clearly
- Use strong words
- Make statements

"I'm going to climb that tree right now!"

Serious Characters

- Use proper words
- Talk about important things
- Don't joke much

"We need to solve this problem carefully and thoughtfully."

Simple Vocabulary Choices for Character Voices

Smart Characters

Use bigger words:

- "That's fascinating!"
- "I calculate that..."
- "According to my research..."

Sporty Characters

Use action words:

- "Let's race!"
- "Game on!"
- "I scored a goal!"

Kind Characters

Use caring words:

- "Are you alright?"
- "Let me help you"
- "That's very kind"

Practice Example!

Look how different these characters sound talking about the same thing (a lost ball):

Shy Sam: "Um... has anyone seen my ball? It's... it's blue..."

Bold Bella: "Hey everyone! My ball's missing and I'm going to find it!"

Funny Felix: "My ball has gone on vacation without me! Anyone seen my runaway sphere?"

Smart Sarah: "I seem to have misplaced my spherical recreational object. Have you observed it anywhere?"

Section 4: Dialogue Tags - Who's Talking?

? What are Dialogue Tags?

Dialogue tags tell us WHO is talking and HOW they're saying it. They're like name tags for speech!

"I love chocolate ice cream," **said Emma.**

"What's your favourite flavour?" **asked Ben.**

The yellow parts are dialogue tags!

🔊 Basic Dialogue Tags

Said

The most common tag - always works!

"Hello there," **said Jake.**

Shouted

For loud, excited speech

"Goal!" **shouted the crowd.**

Asked

For questions

"What time is it?" **asked Mum.**

Whispered

For quiet, secret speech

"Follow me," **whispered Tom.**

★ Fun Alternatives to "Said"

You can use other words instead of "said" to make your writing more interesting!

Happy Feelings

- laughed
- giggled
- cheered
- sang

*"This is fantastic!" **cheered Lucy.***

Sad Feelings

- sighed
- sobbed
- sniffled
- mumbled

*"I lost my toy," **sobbed the little boy.***

Angry Feelings

- grumbled
- snapped
- growled
- huffed

*"That's not fair!" **grumbled Pete.***

📍 Where to Put Dialogue Tags

At the End

Most common way

"I'm hungry," said Tom.

At the Beginning

Sometimes for variety

Tom said, "I'm hungry."

In the Middle

For longer speeches

"I'm hungry," said Tom, "and tired too."

❤️ Practice with Different Emotions

The same words can sound completely different depending on the dialogue tag!

All saying "That's great" but feeling different:

😊 "That's great!" **cheered** Emma.

😱 "That's great!" **gasped** Emma.

😞 "That's great," **sighed** Emma.

🔊 "That's great," **whispered** Emma.

😡 "That's great," **grumbled** Emma.

😄 "That's great!" **laughed** Emma.

💡 Top Tip!

Don't use fancy dialogue tags too often! "Said" and "asked" are your best friends. Save the special ones (like "shrieked" or "thundered") for when you really want to show strong feelings!

Page 7

❤️ Section 5: Emotions in Dialogue

😊 Happy Dialogue Examples

"This is the best day ever!" squealed Jenny.

Shows extreme happiness and excitement

"Hooray! We won!" cheered the team.

Shows celebration and victory

"I can't stop smiling!" giggled Tom.

Shows joy that's hard to contain

"That makes me so happy," beamed Mum.

Shows warm, glowing happiness

Sad Dialogue Examples

"I miss my grandpa so much," sniffled Sarah.

Shows missing someone special

"I don't want to move house," sobbed Lucy.

Shows deep sadness about change

"Why does everything go wrong?" sighed Jake.

Shows feeling defeated and tired

"I feel so lonely," whispered Ben quietly.

Shows sadness and isolation

Angry Dialogue Examples

"That's not fair at all!" grumbled Pete.

Shows frustration with unfairness

"I'm so mad I could scream!" huffed Alex.

Shows building anger and frustration

"Leave me alone!" snapped Emma.

Shows wanting space when annoyed

"You broke my favourite toy," growled Sam.

Shows anger about something precious

Scared Dialogue Examples

"What was that noise?" trembled Katie.

Shows fear of the unknown

"Help me!" screamed the child.

Shows panic and need for help

"I don't want to go in there," gulped Tom.

Shows nervousness about a scary place

"I'm too scared to look," whimpered Ben.

Shows being overwhelmed by fear

⚡ Excited Dialogue Examples

"I can't wait for tomorrow!" bounced Jessica.

Shows anticipation and energy

"Did you see that? Did you see it?" gabbled Max.

Shows excitement making words tumble out

"This is going to be amazing!" babbled Chris.

Shows overwhelming excitement

"I'm buzzing with excitement!" exclaimed Zoe.

Shows energy and enthusiasm

😲 Surprised Dialogue Examples

"I can't believe my eyes!" gasped Ruby.

Shows shock at something amazing

"What?! Really?!" stammered Lily.

Shows shock making it hard to speak clearly

"You've got to be kidding me!" blurted James.

Shows disbelief and surprise

"Well, I never expected that!" marvelled Dad.

Shows pleasant surprise and wonder

Try saying "I found it" in these different ways:

Happy: "I found it!"
cheered...

Surprised: "I found it!"
gasped...

Relieved: "I found it,"
sighed...

Excited: "I found it!"
squealed...

Quiet: "I found it,"
whispered...

Triumphant: "I found it!"
declared...

► Section 6: Dialogue Starters and Responses

🔑 20 Great Ways to Start Conversations

Here are brilliant ways to start conversations in your stories!

1. Exciting News

"Guess what happened to me today!"

2. Asking for Help

"Can you help me with something?"

3. Making a Plan

"I've got an idea!"

4. Warning

"Watch out!"

5. Sharing a Secret

"Promise you won't tell anyone?"

6. Asking Opinion

"What do you think about this?"

7. Expressing Worry

"I'm really worried about something."

11. Solving a Problem

"I know how to fix this!"

12. Giving a Compliment

"You're really good at that!"

13. Making an Invitation

"Do you want to come with me?"

14. Expressing Confusion

"I don't understand what's happening."

15. Announcing Arrival

"I'm here!"

16. Expressing Disbelief

"You've got to be joking!"

17. Starting a Story

"You'll never believe what happened!"

8. Making a Discovery

"Look what I found!"

9. Remembering Something

"I just remembered something important!"

10. Being Curious

"I wonder what would happen if..."

18. Making a Suggestion

"Why don't we try this instead?"

19. Expressing Gratitude

"Thank you so much for helping me!"

20. Creating Suspense

"Something strange is going on here."

? Question Starters

Getting Information

- "What happened next?"
- "How did you do that?"
- "Where are we going?"
- "When will we start?"
- "Who was that person?"

Showing Interest

- "Really? Tell me more!"
- "Are you serious?"
- "What was it like?"
- "How are you feeling?"
- "What's your favourite part?"

! Surprising Statement Starters

Shocking News

- "You're not going to believe this!"
- "The most amazing thing just happened!"
- "I've never seen anything like it!"
- "This changes everything!"

Bold Statements

- "I'm going to be famous one day!"
- "That's the best idea ever!"
- "Nothing can stop us now!"
- "I've made up my mind!"

Greeting Variations

Formal Greetings

- "Good morning!"
- "How do you do?"
- "Pleased to meet you."

Casual Greetings

- "Hey there!"
- "What's up?"
- "How's it going?"

Excited Greetings

- "There you are!"
- "I'm so glad to see you!"

⚡ Emergency/Action Starters

Urgent Situations

- "Quick! Come here!"
- "We need to hurry!"
- "There's no time to waste!"
- "Emergency! Help!"

Action Calls

- "Let's go!"
- "Follow me!"
- "Ready, set, go!"
- "Time for action!"

✍ Writing Magic!

The best dialogue starters grab the reader's attention right away! Try starting your stories with exciting dialogue instead of boring description. Which sounds more interesting: "It was a sunny day" or "Quick! The dragon is coming!"?

💬 Section 7: Common Conversation Types

Asking for Help

Example Conversation:

- 👤 "Excuse me, can you help me find my lost kitten?" asked Lucy nervously.
- 🌿 "Of course! What does your kitten look like?" replied Tom kindly.
- 👤 "She's small and orange with white paws," Lucy explained hopefully.
- 🌿 "I think I saw her by the big oak tree!" Tom exclaimed.

Ways to Ask for Help:





- "Could you please help me?"
- "I'm having trouble with..."
- "Do you know how to...?"
- "I need a hand with..."

Ways to Offer Help:

- "I'd be happy to help!"
- "Let me give you a hand."
- "What can I do?"
- "Don't worry, I'll help you."

Making Friends

Example Conversation:

-  "Hi, I'm new here. I'm Emma," said the girl shyly.
-  "Nice to meet you, Emma! I'm Jake. Do you want to sit with us?" Jake offered.
-  "That would be brilliant! Thank you so much," Emma smiled.
-  "We're playing a game. Would you like to join in?" Jake asked kindly.

Introducing Yourself:





- "Hi, I'm..."
- "My name is..."
- "I don't think we've met."
- "Are you new here too?"

Being Friendly:

- "Would you like to join us?"
- "Do you want to be friends?"
- "Come and sit with me."
- "Let's play together!"

Solving Problems Together

Example Conversation:

-  "The gate is locked and we can't get to the playground," sighed Mia.
-  "Maybe we can find another way in," suggested Ben thoughtfully.
-  "Good idea! Let's walk around and look for an open gate," agreed Mia.
-  "Look! There's a gap in the fence over there!" Ben pointed excitedly.

Identifying Problems:

- "We have a problem..."
- "This isn't working."
- "How are we going to...?"

Suggesting Solutions:

- "What if we try...?"
- "I have an idea!"
- "Maybe we could..."

• "What should we do about...?"

• "Let's work together to..."

⚠ Arguing (Appropriately for Year 3)

Example Conversation:

- 👤 "That's my pencil! You took it from my desk!" said Amy crossly.
- 👤 "No, it's mine! I brought it from home," replied Sam firmly.
- 👤 "But it has my name on it! Look!" Amy pointed out.
- 👤 "Oh! I'm sorry, Amy. I grabbed the wrong one by mistake," Sam apologised.

Expressing Disagreement:

- "I don't agree with that."
- "That's not fair!"
- "I think you're wrong."
- "That's not what happened."

Resolving Arguments:

- "I'm sorry, you're right."
- "Let's find a solution."
- "Can we compromise?"
- "I didn't mean to upset you."

🕵 Sharing Secrets

Example Conversation:

- 👤 "Can you keep a secret?" whispered Zoe mysteriously.
- 👤 "Of course! I promise I won't tell anyone," Josh whispered back.
- 👤 "I found a treasure map in my grandpa's attic!" Zoe revealed quietly.
- 👤 "Really? That's amazing! Can I see it?" Josh asked excitedly but quietly.

Starting Secret Sharing:

- "Promise you won't tell?"
- "I have something to tell you."
- "Can I trust you with a secret?"
- "You have to promise first."

Responding to Secrets:

- "I promise I won't tell."
- "Your secret is safe with me."
- "I won't say a word."
- "That's incredible!"





Different types of conversations help move your story along in different ways. Use problem-solving conversations to create excitement, friendship conversations to show character relationships, and secret-sharing conversations to create mystery!

Page 10

Section 8: Dialogue in Different Story Types

Adventure Stories - Exciting Dialogue

Adventure Dialogue Example:

-  "Quick! The bridge is collapsing!" shouted Alex urgently.
-  "Everyone grab onto the rope!" yelled Captain Sarah.
-  "I can see the treasure cave on the other side!" gasped Alex excitedly.
-  "We're almost there! Don't look down!" encouraged Sarah bravely.

Adventure Words:



- "Hurry!" • "Look out!"
- "We made it!" • "Watch out!"
- "Amazing!" • "Incredible!"
- "Let's go!" • "Follow me!"

Action Dialogue Tags:

- shouted • yelled
- gasped • called out
- exclaimed • cried
- urged • commanded

Friendship Stories - Caring Dialogue

Friendship Dialogue Example:

-  "Are you alright? You look sad," said Emma gently.
-  "I'm worried about my dog. He's been sick," Ben confided quietly.

🧑 "I'm sure he'll get better soon. You're taking good care of him," Emma comforted.

🧑 "Thanks, Emma. You always know how to make me feel better," Ben smiled gratefully.

Caring Words:

- "I understand." • "I'm here for you."
- "Don't worry." • "It'll be okay."
- "You're brave." • "I believe in you."
- "Thank you." • "You're a good friend."

Gentle Dialogue Tags:

- said softly • whispered kindly
- comforted • reassured
- smiled • nodded
- confided • shared

✂ Fantasy Stories - Magical Dialogue

Fantasy Dialogue Example:

🧑 "By the ancient magic of the forest, I grant you this wish," declared the fairy queen majestically.

🧑 "Your kindness has saved our kingdom!" announced the grateful unicorn.

🧑 "The spell will only work if you believe in yourself," the wise wizard explained mysteriously.

🧑 "I can feel the magic growing stronger!" marvelled the young witch.

Magical Words:

- "By the power of..." • "Ancient magic..."
- "The spell..." • "Enchanted..."
- "Mystical..." • "Behold!"
- "The prophecy..." • "Magic flows..."

Fantasy Dialogue Tags:

- declared • announced
- proclaimed • chanted
- marvelled • enchanted
- mystically said • magically spoke

🏫 School Stories - Everyday Dialogue

School Dialogue Example:

🧑 "Did you finish the maths homework?" asked Jess nervously.

🧑 "Yes, but question five was really tricky," replied Tom thoughtfully.

🧑 "Could you help me with it at lunchtime?" Jess requested hopefully.

 "Of course! We can work on it together in the library," Tom offered kindly.

School Words:





- "Homework" • "Test"
- "Lunchtime" • "Playground"
- "Teacher" • "Classroom"
- "Friends" • "Lessons"

Everyday Dialogue Tags:

- asked • replied
- wondered • explained
- suggested • agreed
- mentioned • discussed

Family Stories - Loving Dialogue

Family Dialogue Example:

-  "Dinner's ready, sweetheart!" called Mum lovingly from the kitchen.
-  "Coming, Mum! It smells delicious!" responded Katie enthusiastically.
-  "How was school today, love?" Dad asked with interest.
-  "Really good! I got a gold star for my story!" Katie shared proudly.

Family Words:





- "Sweetheart" • "Love"
- "Darling" • "Honey"
- "My dear" • "Precious"
- "Mum/Dad" • "Family"

Loving Dialogue Tags:

- said warmly • hugged
- smiled lovingly • chuckled
- praised • encouraged
- comforted • cherished

Animal Stories - Fun Character Voices

Animal Dialogue Example:

-  "I know where the best acorns are hidden!" chattered Squirrel excitedly.
-  "Hoot! That's wonderful news!" hooted Owl wisely.
-  "Should we tell the other forest animals?" Squirrel wondered kindly.
-  "Sharing is always the right thing to do," Owl advised thoughtfully.

Animal Sounds in Speech:

- "Woof!" • "Meow!"
- "Hoot!" • "Chirp!"

Animal Dialogue Tags:

- chattered • hooted
- chirped • barked

• "Moo!" • "Buzz!"
• "Roar!" • "Squeak!"

• growled • purred
• squeaked • roared

★ Remember!

The type of story you're writing should influence how your characters talk. Adventure characters speak with excitement and urgency, whilst family characters use loving, gentle words. Match your dialogue to your story type for the best effect!

Page 11

💎 Section 9: 30 Juicy Dialogue Examples (Part 1)

Example 1: Discovering Something Amazing

*"I can't believe what I just found!" gasped Emma.
"What is it? Show me!" urged her brother excitedly.*

Why it works: Creates instant curiosity and excitement
Perfect for: Adventure or mystery stories

Example 6: Asking for Help

*"I don't understand this problem. Could you explain it?" asked Ben politely.
"Of course! Let me show you a trick," offered the teacher.*

Why it works: Shows learning and cooperation
Perfect for: School or learning stories

Example 2: Making New Friends

*"You look lonely. Want to sit with me?" offered Kate kindly.
"Really? That would be wonderful!" smiled the new girl.*

Why it works: Shows kindness and friendship

Example 7: Magical Discovery

*"The stones are glowing!" marvelled Luna in wonder.
"The ancient magic is awakening," whispered the fairy.*

Why it works: Creates mystery and magic

Perfect for: School or friendship stories

Perfect for: Fantasy or magical stories

Example 3: Facing a Fear

*"I'm too scared to go in there,"
whispered Tom.*

*"It's okay. We'll go together,"
Sarah reassured him.*

Why it works: Shows vulnerability and support

Perfect for: Overcoming challenges stories

Example 8: Solving a Problem

*"I think I know how to fix this!"
declared Sophie confidently.*

*"Really? What's your plan?" asked
David with interest.*

Why it works: Shows problem-solving and teamwork

Perfect for: Mystery or problem-solving stories

Example 4: Emergency Situation

*"Quick! The door is closing!"
shouted Alex.*

*"Run faster! We can make it!"
encouraged Mia.*

Why it works: Creates urgency and action

Perfect for: Adventure or escape stories

Example 9: Family Love

"I love

Example 5: Sharing Exciting News

*"Guess what? I got picked for the
team!" cheered Jake.*

*"That's fantastic! I knew you could
do it!" celebrated Emma.*

Why it works: Shows joy and celebration

Perfect for: Achievement or sports stories