

Appendix 6 - Using Dialogue in Imaginative Writing GCSE in English APC (2020/21)

Dialogue, in small amounts, can be really useful in your stories. For instance, they can help in: making a character interesting; telling us about their backstory; moving the story along; introducing a problem; or showing the resolution to a problem. However, don't overdo the dialogue and don't have too many characters talking - or it gets confusing and ...dull. Watch this video on how to punctuate dialogue effectively and answer the quiz. Note how you CAN use said in your writing but it's also good to put some feeling into the speech as well using words like 'muttered', 'exclaimed' etc. The most common mistake that people make is to miss out the capital letter inside the speech mark - ALWAYS start their speech with a capital letter, even if it's halfway through your sentence. Like this: I yelled across to her, "Hey! Can I help?" WATCH THIS SHORT VIDEO NOW and then answer the quiz. Be careful. Some of the questions are about what I've written here! Then press submit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWSfn9oPnJg>

1. Dialogue written without the rules being followed is confusing:

(1 Point)

True False

2. If you overuse dialogue it can be:

(1 Point)

- a) dull and boring
- b) dull and interesting
- c) dull and confusing

3. You CAN use 'said' as a reporting word/tag, just use other words as well to show feeling:

(1 Point)

True False

4. You need a new paragraph for each new speaker:

(1 Point)

True False

5. Full stops to show the end of the speaker's words go inside the speech marks:
(1 Point)

True False

6. You put ? and ! outside the speech marks, if the content inside them is a question or an exclamation.
(1 Point)

True False

7. After you've written it, it's always a good idea to read it through the dialogue to check that it makes sense.
(1 Point)

True False