

Dialogue Writing

Introduction

A dialogue is a literary composition in the form of a conversation between two people. While writing a dialogue, the situation, the characters and their points of view have to be taken into account. Command over vocabulary and grammar is necessary to frame a dialogue correctly.

Points to remember

1. A dialogue does not follow any set rule or format.
2. The idea expressed should be coherent.
3. The language used should be conversational.
4. The conversation should be spontaneous, taking into consideration the ideal way in which the character would react and put across his thoughts.

Two Girls – Clothes to Be Worn in a Party

Q. Arina and Kareem are discussing the type of clothes to be worn in a party. Write their conversation, in the form of dialogues, within 120-150 words.

Answer:

Arina: What should I wear for tomorrow's party?

Kareem: Wear a nice-looking suit.

Arina: A suit? Does anyone wear suit in a party?

Kareem: Alright, then wear a short skirt. Girls wear skirts to party, right?

Arina: Yes, they do. But I will not be comfortable in a short skirt.

Kareem: I believe that one should wear what one feels comfortable in.

Arina: You are right. In that case, I should be wearing jeans. But all my jeans have worn out.

Kareem: Don't you know that wearing faded jeans is in fashion? You can team it with a beautiful and smart top.

Arina: No, I will not wear my old jeans. Let's go for shopping. I will buy a new pair and an elegant top to go with it.

Kareem: OK. Let us go.

Two Friends – One Shifting Base

Q. Ritesh and Sumesh are two childhood friends. They are sad as Sumesh's family is shifting base to Bangalore. Write a dialogue between the two friends, showing their anguish.

Answer:

Sumesh: Why are you angry with me? I am equally upset at not being able to stay back in Delhi with you.

Ritesh: I don't understand why your parents are taking you along to Bangalore. I will be so lonely without you. You have been my best friend since childhood.

Sumesh: I have tried my level best to make my family members understand the situation. I even told them that they could leave me at my sister Anina's place, which is quite near to your house. However, they rejected my plea.

Ritesh: Do you think if my parents talked to them about the matter, they would give in?

Sumesh: I am not sure. They refuse to budge.

Ritesh: I will miss you a lot.

Sumesh: I will miss you too!

Two Men – Permission to Use Mobile Phone

Q. You are Peter. You reach the bus stand to take a bus for Nainital. However, on reaching, you realise that you have forgotten your mobile phone at home. You have to make an urgent phone call to your boss, and so, you ask permission from a co-passenger, Dafer, to use his mobile. Write the conversation, in the form of dialogues, within 120-150 words.

Answer:

Peter: May I ask you for a favour?

Dafer: Yes, sure.

Peter: Actually, I am going to Nainital on a business tour and need to inform my boss about my new itinerary. However, I have forgotten my mobile at home. May I borrow yours to make just one call?

Dafer: That's not a problem! You may surely make a call from my phone. I would appreciate if you make it brief because my phone is low on balance.

Peter: I assure you that I will speak to the point. In fact, if you let me know your number, I can ask my boss to call me back.

Dafer: Yes, this is a better idea. I will write down my number on a piece of paper for your help. Meanwhile, you can make the call.

Peter: Thank you for your help!

Mother and Daughter – Movie Tickets

Q. Anju and her mother reach late for a movie. They do not get tickets for the movie and start blaming each other for it. Write their conversation, in the form of dialogues, within 120-150 words.

Answer:

Anju: I have wanted to watch this movie for a long time. I wish we reached in time for the tickets.

Mother: It's your fault. I took half-day leave since you wanted to watch the movie. You should have been ready by the time I reached home.

Anju: Don't blame me, mother. I was about to get ready when Sumit arrived. It takes time to open the door and let a person know that we are busy.

Mother: It merely proves how lazy you have become. Opening the door and letting anyone know something takes just two minutes. The truth is that you take too much time in dressing up.

Anju: One should look good while going for a movie. How can I hurry up?

Mother: No one can win an argument with you! I will never take you to a movie again.

Society Secretary and Watchman – Late for Duty

Q. You are the secretary of your society. The watchman of the society has been reporting late for duty every day. Write a dialogue between you and the watchman, arguing over the matter.

Answer:

Secretary: You are late.

Watchman: Sorry, sir. I woke up late today.

Secretary: You have been regularly reporting late to work for the past few days. Do you wake up late every day?

Watchman: Sir, my alarm clock has broken and I cannot afford a new one; I am a poor man.

Secretary: These are lame excuses! I am sure you have been drinking liquor at night and, consequently, woke up early in the morning.

Watchman: No sir, this is not the case. I am not in the habit of drinking.

Secretary: I do not want any excuses. You will be fired from your job if you come late again.

Watchman: I will keep it in mind, sir.

Brother and Sister – Birthday Party

Q. Ruby and her brother, Rob, make plans to celebrate the birthday of their pet dog, Missy. Write their conversation, in the form of dialogues, within 120-150 words.

Answer:

Ruby: Tomorrow is our Missy's first birthday! I am very excited.

Rob: Me too! I am thrilled with father's plan to celebrate her birthday. What preparations do you think we should make?

Ruby: We can buy a cake. We can also invite some of our friends and their pets.

Rob: Why don't we get the cake baked in the shape of a bone for the occasion?

Ruby: That is a wonderful idea! And we will ask mom to prepare Missy's favourite dish, Meat Roll.

Rob: Yummy! Missy will love it. We can even buy some presents for her.

Ruby: Yes, like a new dog house or dog toys. We can even decorate the house. She will love it.

Rob: I hope the party goes as planned.

Two Secretaries – Discussing Work

Q. Two friends, Dimty and Pinty, are secretaries working for different dentists. They meet after a long time and discuss the type of patients their respective employers treat. Write their conversation in the form of dialogues, within 120-150 words.

Answer:

Dimty: I am happy you were able to take time out of your schedule and meet me today.

Pinty: I wish we could meet more often. But, as secretaries, we both stay very busy in our respective clinics.

Dimty: The doctor I work for receives patients referred from other clinics as well. It becomes very hectic.

Pinty: Thankfully, that does not happen in the clinic where I work. Yet, my employer doctor receives around 50 patients daily. Although it is good that he is a popular doctor, it becomes tiring.

Dimty: Do you have to work overtime?

Pinty: Sometimes I do have to work overtime. However, I have never been paid extra for it.

Dimty: That's pathetic. I was thinking about changing my job, but after what you have said about your working conditions, I think I'd rather not.

Father and Son – Importance of Morning Walk

Q. Shiv's father tries to make him understand the importance of morning walk. Write their conversation, in the form of dialogues, within 120-150 words.

Answer:

Shiv: Why did you wake me up so early in the morning? Our holidays started yesterday and I had planned to sleep till 10 a.m. during the vacation.

Father: Just because you are on vacation does not mean that you can sleep till late.

Shiv: But what is the point of waking up early when I don't have any work?

Father: I want you and your brother to come along with me for morning walks throughout your vacation.

Shiv: Please father, I do not want to go on morning walks. I am totally fit and healthy.

Father: Morning walk is the best form of exercise. Physically fitness is not the sole purpose of these walks; they help our body and mind to become active and alert.

Shiv: But walking makes me tired.

Father: Regular walks will build-up your stamina and improve your performance in school sports as well.

Shiv: That will be great! I will get ready in five minutes.

Teacher and Pupil – Meeting After 20 years

Q. Kapil meets his school teacher after 20 years and is surprised by the fact that his teacher recognises him in an instant. Write their conversation, showing his astonishment, in the form of dialogues, within 120-150 words.

Answer:

Kapil: Good evening, sir! You might not remember my name but I was your student 20 years ago.

Teacher: Why do you think I would not remember your name, Kapil?

Kapil: Oh! You remember my name. This is pleasantly surprising.

Teacher: Yes, I can recall the names of most of my students. My teaching life has been the most productive part of my life. By the way, which college did you join after school?

Kapil: Sir, I am an MBA from PQR College of Management.

Teacher: Wonderful, Kapil! Are you working somewhere?

Kapil: I have started my own business of computers. Sir, I am in touch with many of my ex-classmates and we often get nostalgic talking about you.

Teacher: I am honoured to know that you all remember me fondly. Why don't you come over to my place someday? I live nearby. Take my address. Bring others along as well.

Kapil: We sure will, sir.

Canteen Manager and Student – Spider in a Bowl of Rice

Q. You discover a dead spider in your bowl of rice while eating in your school canteen. Write a dialogue between you, Prashant, and the canteen manager showing your anger and concern.

Answer:

Prashant: Uncle, there is a dead spider in my bowl of rice.

Manager: A dead spider! The food we sell is hygienically cooked. I am sure the spider might have fallen from the ceiling into your bowl.

Prashant: You are trying to cover up your fault. There are no cob webs on the ceiling.

Manager: Do not make an issue out of it. It is not a big problem.

Prashant: How can you say that it is not a big problem? I will report the matter to the principal as well as my parents.

Manager: OK, I am sorry! Please do not report it to anyone. I will lose my job. I promise to take extra care from now on.

Prashant: Sorry Uncle, but I cannot help you. The matter cannot be overlooked.