

Composition: Dialogue

- **Dialogue** is the exact words characters speak in a story.
- Dialogue can be used to describe a character and keep the story action moving.
- A speaker's exact words are enclosed in quotation marks.
- Descriptive dialogue can be used to describe how a person sounds.
"Don't you dare jump up on the couch, you bad dog," snapped Nancy.

A. Read each statement below. On the lines, write each speaker's exact words.

1. "Wait!" yelled Joe. _____
2. Bill frowned and said, "I don't get it." _____
3. "This isn't what I wanted," said Ty, "but it will do." _____
4. "Hey!" cried Jan, waving. "You forgot your coat!" _____
5. Jed stared at the door and whispered, "Who is it?" _____
6. "They're here!" gasped Alan, spotting Mom's car. _____
7. "If you need a ride," said Glen, "let me know." _____
8. "I wanted Ellie to join us, but she is busy," Liz said to Jody. _____
9. "Did you hear what happened?" asked Lou. _____
10. Hap shook his head and muttered, "No way." _____

B. Use descriptive verbs to finish the sentences.

11. "I'm allergic to cats," _____ Jeffrey
12. "Your haircut looks absolutely fantastic," _____ Alice.
13. "That's pretty funny," _____ Mark.
14. "I'm giving you five seconds to get in bed," _____ Mom.
15. "Be quiet," _____ Syd "or you'll wake the baby."

Negatives

REMEMBER THE RULES

- A **negative** is a word that means "no" or "not."
- Use only one negative in a sentence.

Incorrect: *There weren't no bandages in the hospital.*

Correct: *There weren't any bandages in the hospital.*

Correct: *There were no bandages in the hospital.*

A. Put a check mark in front of sentences that have a negative. Circle the negative.

1. _____ Florence Nightingale decided at age 16 that she wanted to help people.
2. _____ She didn't know then exactly what she would do.
3. _____ When she became an adult, she did not forget her goal.
4. _____ Florence decided she wanted to work in a hospital.
5. _____ Florence's mother couldn't understand this decision.
6. _____ Hospitals then were no place for a young woman like Florence.
7. _____ Nothing would stop Florence from leaving home to study nursing.
8. _____ During a war in 1854, Florence was asked to care for wounded soldiers.
9. _____ She was upset that the hospital had no cots or medical supplies.
10. _____ No one was taking care of the sick and injured men.



B. Underline the two negatives in each sentence. Then rewrite the sentence correctly, using only one negative.

11. Florence wrote angry letters explaining that there weren't no supplies.

12. She was also angry that people hadn't done nothing to clean up the hospital.

13. Florence would not accept no unclean conditions.

14. No one did no more than she to introduce the world to skilled nursing.

15. England held celebrations to honor her, but she didn't go to none of them.
