

Unit 13

Dialogue Writing



Objectives:

After the completion of this unit, you should be able to–

- write dialogue.
- participate in conversation and discussion.

Overview:

Lesson 1: *Dialogue Writing*



Answer Key

Lesson 1: Dialogue Writing



When you are writing a dialogue, pick your main ideas. Write as you talk. Remember that you're writing a speech, not an essay. Use concrete words and examples. Concrete details keep people interested. Get your facts together.

When you revise a dialogue, be sure to punctuate it correctly so that your readers can see who is talking and where a line of dialogue begins or ends. The rules for using quotation marks, commas, and end marks of punctuation are listed below.

- Use quotation marks before and after a character's exact words. Place a period inside closing quotation marks.
"Rahim and Karim are joining us."
- Use a comma to set off the speaker's tag (he said) from the beginning of a quotation. Place the comma inside closing quotation marks when the speaker's tag follows the quotation.
Haris said, "Come on, Rais. It'll be fun."
"Let's go," Sumon said.
- Use quotation marks around each part of a divided quotation. Remember to set off the speaker's tag with commas.
"I'm not sure," said Rais, "that I feel like it."
- Place a question mark or an exclamation point inside the quotation marks when it is part of the quotation.
"When will we be back?" Rais asked.
"Hooray!" said Dina.
- Place a question mark or an exclamation point outside the quotation marks when it is not part of the quotation.
Did I hear Rais say, "Okay"?
I can't believe he said, "Okay"!
- Start a new paragraph when you move from one speaker to another.
"How long a hike is it?" Rais asked. "I don't know whether I have the energy."
"I think," said Iris, "that it's about seven miles to the top."

Examples of writing dialogues

Arif and Asif are two friends. Now, Arif lives in the town after he has got himself admitted into a college situated in a town. On the other hand, Asif lives in the village after his admission into the local college. Now, write a dialogue between the two friends on the advantages and disadvantages of village life and town life.

A dialogue between two friends about city life and village life :

Asif : How do you feel in my village?

Arif : Fantastic. I like villages very much.

Asif : Really? I know you're a city dweller. But why do you like villages?

Arif : I think village life is more charming and interesting than city life.

Asif : I don't agree with you on some points. To me, city life is more attractive because there are many other advantages and comforts.

Arif : I agree with you on this point. But you can't deny the natural beauty and many advantages of the villages.

Asif : Please tell me frankly.

Arif : In the villages you get fresh air, clean blue sky, green trees, vast green fields, simple frank people. In them you can catch the very soul of nature. On the other hand, the city life is full of din and bustle. Most streets, houses, offices and restaurants are overcrowded. The atmosphere is smoky and stuffy. The city atmosphere is very much harmful for health. Moreover, the people living in the cities are not open-minded. They are often self-centred and do not assist their neighbours.

Asif : Oh, I have got the point. I'm very much glad that you have developed a tender love for villages and the green beauty of the country', in spite of being born and brought up in the luxurious atmosphere of the city life.

Arif : Thank you very much.

The necessity of reading newspaper is quite vast. Now, write a dialogue between yourself and Raisa about the necessity of reading newspapers.

A dialogue between myself and my friend Raisa about the necessity of reading newspapers:

Myself: Hi, Raisa! How are you?

Raisa: I'm pretty well and you?

Myself: I'm also fine. Well, Raisa, what is your idea about the necessity of reading newspaper?

Raisa: I think it is indispensable for a modern man to read newspaper daily. It can help us in various ways, can't it?

Myself: Yes, we get various types of news in newspaper; for instance, current affairs, trade and commerce, literature, games and sports, etc.

Raisa: You're right. To adjust with modern civilization we have no other substitute than reading newspaper.

Myself: But you should bear in mind that sometimes false news leads to many mishaps.

Raisa: Of course. But there is nothing with unmixed blessing in this world and so we must be aware of it so that we might not be influenced by any false or biased news or reports. However, reading newspaper is essential for all and it's true.

Myself: Thank you. See you again. Goodbye.

Raisa: Goodbye.

Suppose, you are Tamim. You want to borrow a book from your school library. Now, write a dialogue between you and the librarian regarding borrowing a book.

A dialogue between a librarian and myself (Tamim) on borrowing a book from the library:

Tamim: May I come in,

Librarian: Yes, come in.

Tamim: Thank you.

Librarian: Welcome. How can I help you?

Tamim: I need to borrow a grammar book.

Librarian: Do you have a library card?

Tamim: Yes, I've.

Librarian: Show me the card.

Tamim: Here is the card.

Librarian: It's OK. Now tell me which book do you want?

Tamim: I want to borrow an English Grammar book.

Librarian: Which grammar book do you need?

Tamim: I want a grammar book written by Wren & Martin.

Librarian: Wait a bit. I'm giving it to you.

Tamim: OK

Librarian: Here is the book. Let me furnish the official formality.

Tamim: For how many days can I keep the book?

Librarian: You can keep the book for seven days.

Tamim: If I want to keep some more days, what do I need to do?

Librarian: Then you need to return the book to me and again you will be able to borrow' the book for another seven more days.

Tamim: Thank you for your kind information.

Librarian: You're most welcome.

In the modern age, computer has become an essential part of our life. Now, write a dialogue between yourself and your friend about the usefulness of computer.

A dialogue between myself and my friend Kamal about the usefulness of computer :

Myself: Hello, Kamal, you look very cheerful. What's the matter?

Kamal: I bought a computer last night and I'm so happy.

Myself: That's great. At present learning computer is a crying need for everyone.

Kamal: I think so. If I do not know anything about it, I won't get any job.

Myself: Right. Preference is given to the computer expert people.

Kamal: You know there are many jobs in IT sector now.

Myself: And one must have the skill in operating computer. Because none can get a good job with handsome salary without learning computer.

Kamal: That's why I've bought it. I'll learn about it.

Myself: I am also learning computer and we can learn together.

Kamal: That's a good idea. Let's start from today.

Myself: Bye, Kamal.

Kamal: Goodbye.

Trees are very important for us. Now, write a dialogue between Rakib and Anis about the importance of tree plantation.

A dialogue between Rakib and Anis about tree plantation :

Rakib : Good morning, Anis. What are you reading?

Anis: Hi! I am reading an article on trees. Do you know how important trees are for us?

Rakib : Yes, trees are not only a source of food, vitamins and furniture but also they help to maintain the ecological balance of the environment.

Anis : Realizing the importance of trees we should plant more and more trees.

Rakib : June and July are the best time for planting trees.

Anis : But there are many people who are ignorant of the importance of trees and cut trees at random.

Rakib : For the awareness of the general mass, tree plantation programme should be expanded to the remote corner of our country.

Anis : Yes, every possible attempts should be made to make the programme a grand success.

Rakib : I feel very happy that your thoughts are similar to those of mine.

Anis : So do I. Thank you and goodbye. See you tomorrow.

Smoking is really a bad habit. Now, write a dialogue between Reza and Babu about the bad effects of smoking.

A dialogue between Reza and Babu about the bad effects of smoking :

Reza : Hello, Babu. How are you?

Babu : I am not well. I have been suffering from cough.

Reza : I have come to know that you have become a chain smoker. Smoking is most probably of the major reasons of your sickness.

Babu : My doctor is also of the same opinion.

Reza : Why don't you give up smoking? Don't you know the dangers of smoking?

Babu : I tried to give it up, but I could not. I cannot even concentrate on my study without smoking.

Reza : If you had thought seriously about its bad effects, you would not have smoked any more.

Babu : How is it harmful?

Reza : Smoking causes many fatal diseases such as cancer, heart attack, chronic bronchitis, etc. Besides, it is also very expensive.

Babu : Is there anything good in smoking?

Reza : Of course not. Nobody could put up any positive aspect of smoking.

Babu : Well, within a short time I will give up smoking totally.

Reza : Thank you. The sooner you give it up, the better it will be for you.

You are Ratan. You meet your friend Jewel. Nowadays, he feels tired and looks weak. You advise him to walk in the morning regularly. Now, make a dialogue between you and Jewel about the good effects of morning walk.

A dialogue between myself (Ratan) and my friend Jewel about the good effects of morning walk:

Ratan : Good morning, Jewel.

Jewel : Good morning. How are you?

Ratan : I am fine. You look so pale, What's happened to you?

Jewel : Yes, I feel so tired nowadays.

Ratan : Do you know the reason?

Jewel : No. But I have to work hard for the preparation for the ensuing exam.

Ratan : I think, you go to bed too late and get up from bed too late. And probably you are indifferent in respect of food.

Jewel : Yes, you're right.

Ratan : This is the reason for your weakness.

Jewel : Then what can I do?

Ratan : You know, morning walk is good for health. If you take a walk in the morning, you could inhale fresh and pure air and feel its invigorating effect. Besides, morning walk is the best kind of physical exercise. At the same time you must be careful in respect of eating balanced diet.

Jewel : Do you think so?

Ratan : Yes, of course. You can prove it by practising regularly only for one month.

Jewel : Okay. Thank you.

Illiteracy is one of the serious problems of Bangladesh. Now, write a dialogue between yourself and your friend how to eradicate the illiteracy problem from Bangladesh.

A dialogue between myself and my friend about eradicating illiteracy from our country :

Myself : Hello, Shiplu, how are you?

Shiplu : I am fine. And you?

Myself : I am also fine too. May I know your opinion about illiteracy?

Shiplu : Yes. It is a great problem as well as a curse for the country.

Myself : How?

Shiplu : Because without education no nation can develop as ignorance creates many other problems.

Myself : What should we do then?

Shiplu : We should work hand in hand to educate the illiterate.

Myself : We also need to create people's awareness so that they send their children to school.

Shiplu : Yes, of course. It is the key factor. The govt, has already taken many steps to remove illiteracy.

Myself : We must cooperate with the govt.

Shiplu : Yes, we must come forward in this respect.

Myself : If we are sincere in our words and deeds, nothing is impossible.

Shiplu : That's right. Thank you.

Myself : OK. See you again. .

Suppose, you are Manik/Munia. Your friend Shafi/Shafia wants to know about the importance of "Physical Exercise". Write a dialogue between you and your friend about it.

A dialogue between myself (Munia) and my friend (Shafia) about the importance of physical exercise:

Myself : How are you, Shafia?

Shafia: Fine, thanks. Why do you look pale and frail?

Myself : Well, I have not been feeling well for the past few days.

Shafia: I think, you're not in the habit of taking physical exercise.

Myself : Exactly.

Shafia: But you should start taking physical exercise without fail and from now on.

Myself : Really? Will it improve my health?

Shafia: Of course. The benefits of physical exercise are many. The greatest of them is that exercise keeps us fit, gives us energy and makes us cheerful.

Myself : Now I understand. I will make it a point to take physical exercise regularly.

Shafia: Yes, you can play games, swim or simply walk.

Myself : I am really encouraged to develop the habit of doing exercise. Many thanks to you.

Shafia: Thank you, too.



Read the following questions on dialogue writing. Practice at home.

1. Munir is your friend who went to Dhaka to visit many interesting places. Now, write a dialogue between yourself and your friend.
2. Suppose, you are Mitul. Both you and your friend Setu are taking preparation for the SSC examination. Setu meets you for suggestion. Now, write a dialogue between you and your friend about your preparation for the exam



Answer key:

1. A dialogue between myself and Munir about Munir's experience in Dhaka city :

Myself : Hi, Munir. How are you?

Munir : Fine. Thank you. And how about you?

Myself : Quite well. It's a long time since we met. Where have you been so long?

Munir : I have been to Dhaka.

Myself : Why did you go there?

Munir : To visit my elder brother working there.

Myself : How long did you stay there?

Munir : I stayed there for three weeks and spent a very nice time with my elder brother's family.

Myself : Have you visited any important sites and places in Dhaka?

Munir : Yes, I have visited Ahsan Manzil, the Bangabhaban, the Sangsad Bhaban, the National Museum, the Central Shaheed Minar, the Dhaka Zoo, the Botanical Garden, the Wonderland and so on.

Myself : Really exciting! You had nice days in Dhaka.

Munir : But friend, there is also some bitter experience. Life in Dhaka is very fast and busy.

Life in Dhaka city seemed to me very much artificial.

Myself : Not only that, traffic jam in Dhaka city is also unbearable.

Munir : Right you are. Traffic jam along with an intense air pollution is creating a very negative impact upon the city dwellers. I think necessary initiatives should be taken to remove this problem so that we can have a decent environment in Dhaka city.

Myself : Okay. Thank you for expressing your experience of Dhaka city. I have no time today. I will come soon other day. Goodbye.

Munir : Goodbye. See you again.

A dialogue between myself (Mitul) and my friend Setu about our preparations for the examination.

Myself: Hi, Setu, how are you?

Setu: Fine, thank you. But I'm worried about my coming examination.

Myself: You're very studious and laborious, you never waste your time. You've taken a good preparation. I think you'll do well in the examination.

Setu: I've read well but I'm afraid. I think I'll not be able to answer all the questions in the given time .

Myself: You know I'm very weak in English. I couldn't carry more than 50% marks in English.

Setu: You have to change your learning method. You should learn some basic rules of English Grammar. Besides, you need to improve your writing skill to make a better result.

Myself: The authorities are very much strict. So, we've no scope of copying.

Setu: If you take of copying, you'll fail in the examination. Read attentively. You'll do better.

Myself: Thanks for your suggestion.

Setu: You're most welcome.