

Dialogue Writing

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Rubric for Dialogue Writing

1. Adherence to the topic
2. Relevant Conversation
3. Grammar
4. Punctuation
5. Vocabulary

Basic Rules of Dialogue Writing

- Use quotation marks before and after the speaker's exact words.
- Use a comma to separate the speaker from the quote.
- Put periods, question mark and exclamation points inside the quotation marks.
- Start a new paragraph whenever a speaker switches.

i. Dialogue between a teacher and a student

Teacher : Hello Fauzia! You are a bit late today.

Fauzia : Yes, Madam, I am sorry.

Teacher : Well. What happened?

Fauzia : The school bus was right on schedule. It was about to cross the canal bridge when it came to a halt with a jerk. The tyre had gone flat.

Teacher : I see. It is not your fault.

Fauzia : One thing more, Madam. The driver had no jack with him. He waved to other vehicles but they would not stop. Nobody seemed willing to oblige at this rush hour.

Teacher : Well. What did you do then? You came by another bus. Didn't you?

Fauzia : No, Madam, we left the bus where it was and walked up to school all the way.

Teacher : Well done! You are a brave girl indeed But remember, always be careful while crossing roads. Now, girls let us get going with our lesson.

ii. Dialogue between two students regarding Salat

Osama : Well, now I'd like to take rest for a while. I've had my meal, you know.

Salman : Ok. You take rest while I fix this picture of a landscape on the wall. Where is the sticky tape?

Osama : Out there in the drawer.

Salman : Well, I think this picture needs to be a bit higher up. How do you like it Osama?

Osama : Lovely! Good, well done. It looks nice up there. Now let us go for namaz to the masjid.

Salman : I am going to the market. I shall not be long.

Osama : No, namaz first. Have you heard the moezzin's call for salat? Haven't you?

Salman : Sure, I have but I am going out. It's very urgent. My motor bike is out at the gate.

Osama : There is nothing in the world that ought to be more urgent than a namaz.

Salman : I don't really understand it. Art is long and life is short. There is so much to do in the world. There is so much fun-games, sports, T. V., cricket, world cups, videos, feature films, fun-fairs, shopping, loitering and break and break and break. Sorry, I am going.

Osama : Dear me! Who am I to hold you back? Dear as you are to me, I sincerely wish that you offer namaz. Namaz gives us peace, freshness, balance, courage, hope, goodness in our short life here on the earth, and eternal goodness in the life hereafter.

Salman : Oh, I am sick of your sermons, Osama!

Osama : See, Allah has given us eyes, ears, heart, hands, legs and brain. Salman, you see such a lovely world is there around us. Great gifts are they! Aren't they? We must thank Allah - the Merciful, the Sustainer. As Muslims we offer namaz and this is how we thank Allah.

Salman: All right. I must thank Allah for the blessings that He has bestowed upon me. I love Him, too. I'll go with you.

iii. Dialogue asking one's way

A: Excuse me for troubling you sir, but can you tell me the way to the museum?

B: Certainly. Keep straight on along this road, take the first turn to the right, and that will take you to a green square with flagpoles. That is Istanbul Square; cross it, and you'll see a corner of a red-brick building with a couple of domes. That is the museum.

A: Thanks very much indeed.

B: My pleasure.

(A goes on walking and takes the wrong turn. He wanders around a good deal. Tired and upset, he talks to a passer-by.)

A: Pardon me, sir, does this road lead to the museum?

B: I am sorry, sir. I don't know. I am a complete stranger here myself.

(Another gentleman C on hearing this, stops.)

C: Yes. Keep straight this way for over a mile and a half until you come to Chowk Azadi, then turn to the left. But it is a good way.

A: How far, do you think?

C: Over two miles, I should say. I'd take a bus, if I were you.

A: What number or route please?

C: Take number 117 when you come to Chowk Azadi. That will take you to the museum.

A: Thanks.

iv. Dialogue between a brother and a sister concerning time

Ali: What is the time?

Fatimah: It is nearly five minutes to eight by my watch.

Ali: Upon my word, we must hurry up, if you are to catch that train to Rawalpindi.

Fatimah: Why, when is it due out?

Ali: At quarter past nine exactly.

Fatimah: Oh, never mind. We have plenty of time.

Ali: I am not so sure of that. What on earth have you been doing? What time did you get up?

Fatimah: I woke up before half-past five. Then I performed ablution and offered my morning salat. Now breakfast is ready. Don't look at me like that.

Ali: For Heaven's sake, get ready! We have not a minute to lose. Time flies, you know.

v. Dialogue between a tailor and a customer

(Father is about to set up the tape-recorder, he calls aloud Yasser, Anne). Come over here. Hurry up! (They show up in a minute.)

Father: You are going to hear a dialogue on the tape now.

Yasser: Father! What is it about?

Father: Well, see this picture. (There is a picture of a tailor and a customer. Father switches on the tape-recorder. They listen with attention.)

Tailor: Good morning, Sir, what can I do for you?

Customer: I should like to be measured for a suit.

Tailor: With pleasure, Sir, kindly step this way. What style and shade would you prefer?

Customer: I want an ordinary lounge suit made of brown tweed. How much would the stitching cost?

Tailor: I could make you a suit for Rs. 2000/-. It is quite reasonable, sir.

Customer: That's right.

Tailor: Could you manage to call in sometime next week for the try?

Customer: Yes, just give me a ring. Here is my card.

Tailor: Very good, sir. Good morning. (Father takes out the plug and talks to his kids.)

Father: What do you say to that, kids?

Yasser: Very interesting, Dad.

Anne: Father I'll hear it again and then we will practise it. Yasser will act out as the tailor, and I shall be the customer.