



OxBridge Centre
ENGLAND

Essay Writing

Week 17

Name

Your score

 /

%

Class average

%

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Dialogue

STARTER : Can you remember any of the rules for writing dialogue? Discuss together and list them on the board.

A Can you circle the mistakes in these sentences and write them out correctly below?

1. "How do you know about me cheating in that test" asked Hannah
2. "Thank you for coming," she smiled "It wouldn't have been the same without you."
3. "Oh my goodness" he yelled in surprise.
4. "But," said Aisha bashfully "I'm almost a bit embarrassed by my success."

B 1. What should you do when a new person speaks?

2. Can you show where there should be a new line in the text below by adding slashes like this: //

"I really don't want to go to school today," complained Kaviin. "Well I am afraid you have to," answered his Mum. "Isn't there something useful I can do at home to help you, Dad?" "No," laughed Kaviin's dad. "I am going to your uncle's house to help paint their sitting room and your Mum's at work all day. There would be no one in to look after you." "But I can look after myself!" "Don't be silly," said Kaviin's Mum, as she grabbed her car keys and purse from the kitchen table and headed for the door. "You're only seven!"

C

1. What are the bold parts of the text below called?

“Oh, please come down to talk to me,” **pleaded the friendly fox.**

“Why would I fly down to talk to you?” **sneered the owl.** “I am busy being deep in my thoughts.”

2. Can you explain why the reporting clauses below are better than the ones in question C 1?

“Oh, please come down to talk to me,” pleaded the friendly fox, **sat on the damp, leafy ground.**

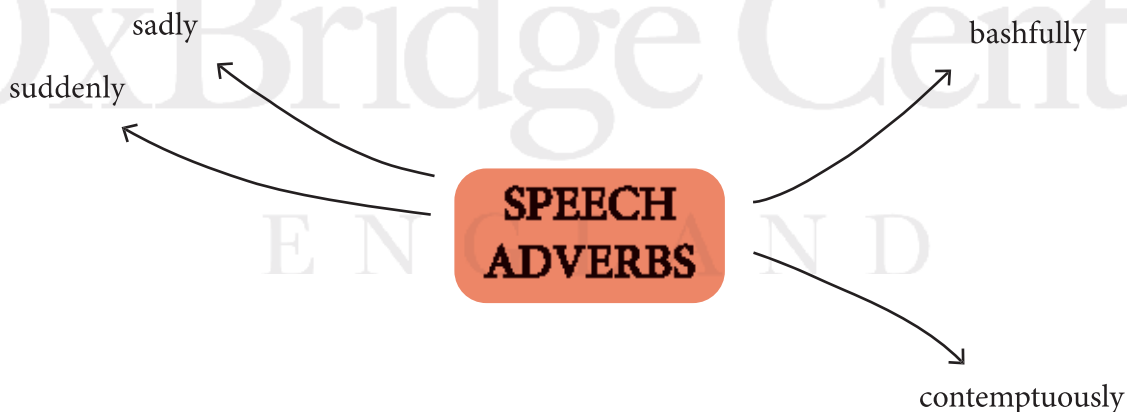
“Why would I fly down to talk to you?” sneered the owl **contemptuously, inspecting his talons.** “I am busy being deep in my thoughts.”

3. A lot of reporting clauses have an adverb.

“I miss home,” he said, **sadly, with tears**
beginning to gather in his eyes.

The word ‘sadly’ is an adverb, and tells us the
tone of voice the character uses.

Make a spider diagram below with as many good adverbs you can think of that would describe someone talking. A few have been done for you.



4. Now choose 3 of your favourite adverbs and write a line of speech for each one, putting the adverb in the reporting clause.

For example, if one of your favourite adverbs was 'sarcastically' your speech and reporting clause might be:

'Go to the beach, you say? In the howling wind and pouring rain? What an absolutely fantastic idea,' she said, sarcastically.

5. Now re-write the conversation below, keeping the speech the same, but adding extra descriptive information or action to the reporting clauses. **We will share our answers with the rest of the class.**

"Empty that bag," she bellowed, "and then get out of here!"

"No, but please let me explain!" he begged. "I'm not a thief."

"Oh really?" she sneered. "Well let me call 999 and see what the police have to say about it, shall I?"

"No, please don't," he said.

"Show me what's in the bag," she replied.

HINT: You don't need to do a detailed reporting clause like these for every bit of speech you write.

In fact you don't always need a reporting clause at all, for example if there are only two people talking and it is obvious who's who. Sometimes detail in the reporting clause can be amazing for adding detail, or explaining how a character is feeling (their lips might quiver if they're about to cry, their face might go red if they are enraged) but if you did it on every line it would slow you down and sound a bit over-the-top.

D

In your writing you should use a mixture of direct speech and reported speech. Direct speech is when you write exactly what the character says, showing this with speech marks. Reported speech is when you just explain what they said in your own words and there are no speech marks.

Use a line to underline direct speech, and a zig-zag line to underline reported speech

When I saw my friend Kharise in the market the other day she said sorry to me.

"It's been ages and you still haven't made my jumpsuit," I complained.

"I know," she said, looking down, "it's just that I've been so busy."

I said to her that I was a bit annoyed but I'd be happy if she could do it soon.

"OK then," she replied. "I'll get on it."

A week or so later, she said she was still too busy.

I told her to forget about it then. As long as she gave me the fabric back, I'd see if I could get someone else to make it.

Homework

Below is a scene from early on in the Shakespeare play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It has been translated into modern English. For your writing task, you will need to change another scene from a Shakespeare play and write it as a story, meaning you can add sentences and paragraphs before you begin re-writing it as a story; otherwise you won't know what the characters and their personalities are like.

EXAMPLE:

PLAY VERSION

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 1, scene 2

Enter Oberon, the King of the Fairies, on one side of the stage with his followers. At the opposite side of the stage Titania, the Queen, enters with her followers.

OBERON: How unlucky for me to meet you in the moonlight, Titania.

TITANIA: What, are you jealous, Oberon? Fairies, let's skip away. I promised I'd never see Oberon again.

OBERON: Just a minute, you horrid woman. Are you not supposed to obey your husband?

TITANIA: If you are my husband, I must be your wife. And a man must be faithful to his wife, but I know you snuck away from our kingdom dressed as a shepherd and spent all day playing love songs to your new girlfriend.

STORY VERSION

On a warm moonlit night, in a deep and dangerous forest, something very strange was going on in a small clearing in the woods. Warm breezes danced through the summery air, making the trees sway and quiver. Through the tangled darkness of the forest, shimmering green lights came near. Something was about to happen.

There was the sound of drums, and from one side of the clearing, the most impressively strange man you ever saw emerged. He was seven feet tall, his orangey skin wrinkled and broken all over like the bark on an old tree. And yet he somehow still seemed young, with huge yellow eyes glistening like a tiger's. He was followed by an array of smaller creatures, all equally strange. Dirty children dressed in leaves, huge hedgehogs with bees' wings, short men with big heads, sharp spears and cat's ears. Some were there to amuse and entertain the giant man, others were there to fiercely protect him.

At the other side of the clearing the gentle music of harps and violins and strange, watery singing grew louder and another group of wonderful but terrifying beings appeared. They were led by a woman who was seven and a half feet tall. She had hair which tumbled down in knotted, messy black waves all the way to her knees. Her skin was glowing and bluish like the moon. Her jewellery was made of daisies and pink spiders which wriggled their legs. Her followers were similar to the man's: just as bizarre and just as beautiful.

"How unlucky for me to meet you in the moonlight, Titania," the man shouted across the clearing, a half-smile playing on his face. He liked to argue.

"What, are you jealous, Oberon?" sneered Titania, looking very unimpressed. "Fairies, let's skip away. I promised I'd never see Oberon again."

At this, Oberon's mood turned from a joking anger to a true, boiling fury, because he could not stand to be insulted by a woman.

"Just a minute, you horrid woman," he exploded. "Are you not supposed to obey your husband?"

Titania (who had been walking away surrounded by her magical musicians and ferocious guards) turned around slowly.

Calmly but firmly, she said: "If you are my husband, I must be your wife. And a man must be faithful to his wife."

There was a pause. The musicians stopped playing. Then bravely and calmly, the queen walked into the middle of the clearing. The grass around her feet shook in all directions.

"But," she hissed, "I know you snuck away from our kingdom dressed as a shepherd and spent all day playing love songs to your new girlfriend."

The creatures all fell silent. This meant war.

Now it's your turn.

Here is a scene that you have to write as a story, adding more detail.

Twelfth Night, Act 1, scene 2

A young woman, Viola, and several men, including the captain, have been washed up on a beach after their ship sank in a terrible storm. They are surrounded by smashed up wood and items from the shipwreck.

VIOLA: What country is this, friends?

CAPTAIN: This is Illyria, lady.

VIOLA: And what should I do in Illyria? My twin brother is in heaven. Or maybe there is a chance he has survived. What do you reckon, sailors?

CAPTAIN: It was just amazing luck that you yourself have survived.

VIOLA: Oh, my poor brother! But maybe with some amazing luck he will have survived too.

CAPTAIN: True, lady. Don't give up hope. When our ship split in two, as you and a few others were holding onto the lifeboat, I saw your brother tie himself to a mast that was floating in the sea.

VIOLA: (giving him money) Thank you for saying that – here's some gold. Since I survived, I guess he might have done as well. Do you know this country we've landed in?

CAPTAIN: Yes, lady, I know it well. I was born less than three hours' journey from here.

VIOLA: Who is the ruler here?

CAPTAIN: A noble duke called Orsino.

Remember to use:



- ☐ Interesting words for 'said'
- ☐ A paragraph or two of descriptions to set the scene
- ☐ Interesting 'speech adverbs'
- ☐ Descriptive reporting clauses, telling what the characters are doing as they talk
- ☐ A new line for each speaker
- ☐ Punctuation at the end of all the speech, and all the reporting clauses

ENGLAND

Handwriting practice area with horizontal lines and a large watermark reading "SAMPLE" diagonally across the center. The watermark also includes the text "OXBRIDGE CENTRE" and "ENGLAND" in a circular seal design.

EXAMPLE

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