

Say “Cheese”

Dialogue Writing

- **Dialogue** = what characters say using quotations.
- New speaker = new paragraph.
- **Good dialogue pattern:**
 - Two descriptive sentences.
 - Speaker #1 (≥ one complete sentence).
 - Speaker #2 (≥ one complete sentence).
 - Repeat pattern.
- *Commented, remarked, inquired, replied, responded, asked, shouted, grumbled, said, ...*

Essay #1: Use the dialogue pattern and complete the scene. (18-24 sentences)

It was a busy Tuesday afternoon, and Santa just got back from his lunch break. I was the elf photographer in charge of collecting money and getting kids to smile.

“That will be five dollars, please,” I requested from the energetic mother of small triplets.

“My triplets can’t wait to sit on Santa’s lap!” announced the excited mother, proudly lining up Tim, Tom, and Tina.



The line had doubled in size since lunch, with kids waving their five dollars trying to attract Santa’s attention. Some kids were rehearsing their wish lists, while others simply brought a printed copy for the bearded one.

Essay #2: Use the dialogue pattern to complete the scene. (16-20 sentences)

Our car pulled into the parking lot, and dad parked near the entrance. It was a long drive to #1 Santa Claus Lane, North Pole; but we made it!

“Just park anywhere,” announced Mrs. Claus, as she met us with cookies. “Four cookies for a dollar!”

“Thank you, Mrs. Claus, we’re fine,” smiled dad politely. “We are still full from the hotel breakfast.”

To make money in the off-season, the Claus family opens their workshop to tourists – for a price. Word at the hotel is Mrs. Claus is a shrewd businesswoman who could sell a wolf to a shepherd.



“All items discounted half-price just for you, this week only,” beamed Mrs. Claus still counting the money from the family that just left. “What will it take to put your family into a toy car today?”