



DEVELOPING YOUR USE OF DIALOGUE

The things characters say often tells us a lot about their personality.

For example,

'What an ugly little girl!' ← As detective readers, we can assume that the person who said this is concerned with appearances and is probably spiteful. (Note the exclamation mark, too!)

However, the way that the things are said often tells us a lot more.

For example,

'I'd love to come,' said the young woman. ← She really would like to go.

'I'd love to come,' muttered the young woman as she lowered her eyes.

↖
This word - the way she says it - tells us that she doesn't really want to go.

↖
Her actions (avoiding eye contact) also confirms that she doesn't want to go.

TASK 1

In pairs, compile a list of synonyms for the word 'said'. Compare and then share your list with another pair. Nominate a chairperson to deliver your group's answers back to the class. Prepare a class display of these synonyms.



TASK 2

Write brief, thumb-nail sketches of two characters. Choose a setting.
Write one sentence to describe a brief plot.

E.G. **Tracey** - 16 year old runaway, shy, frightened

Man - old, scruffy, drunk, abusive

Setting - a bus stop

Plot - She's waiting for a bus. He normally sleeps there.

TASK 3

Write an extract from a story in which there is dialogue between your two characters. If you're stuck, you can use the above example.

Hints

- Remember to apply the rules for punctuating direct speech.
- Make sure that what they say tells us something about their personalities.
- Use interesting words to describe how they speak.
- Occasionally, describe their actions.