

## DIALOGUE MINI-LESSON

### VOCABULARY

**dialogue** - what the character is saying; inside quotation marks

**dialogue tags** - describes how the character says the dialogue

### THREE MAIN RULES FOR DIALOGUE

- 1.) Put the dialogue in quotation marks.
- 2.) Start a new paragraph everytime the character who is speaking changes.
- 3.) Use a comma to connect the dialogue and dialogue tags.

### THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO CONNECT DIALOGUE AND DIALOGUE TAGS.

#### 1.) Put the dialogue tag BEFORE the dialogue.

He cleared his throat and said, “No no, I mean I was early, yes, but 9 no.”

**Note:** Place the comma outside the quotation when the dialogue tag is before the dialogue.

#### 2.) Put the dialogue tag AFTER the dialogue.

“Morning Fernando. I bet you’ve been here since 9 o’clock,” muttered Bev as she jingled her keys and unlocked the door.

**Note:** Place the comma inside the quotation when the dialogue tag is after the dialogue.

#### 3.) Put the dialogue tag IN BETWEEN the dialogue.

“Actually it was 9:07 today,” he said, “and I set a timer when I showed up about twentythree minutes ago.”

### SAMPLE PASSAGE



It is 9:28 AM and Fernando is standing outside Bev's Donation Depot holding a brown box filled with an assortment of items he rarely uses. He shifts his weight from side to side. He makes an attempt to whistle, but instead chooses to exhale in a big puff and looks at the store. His hands are starting to go numb from a combination of holding the box and standing outside for the last half hour. He likes to be early for things. He sees Bev appear from around the corner and begins an excited shuffle toward the door.

“Morning Fernando. I bet you’ve been here since 9 o’clock,” muttered Bev as she jingled her keys and unlocked the door. “You know we open at 9:30 every Saturday, right?”

He cleared his throat and said, “No no, I mean I was early, yes, but 9 no.” He paused, then motioned to his watch with his eyes and smiled. “Actually it was 9:07 today,” he said, “and I set a timer when I showed up about twentythree minutes ago.” He picked up the watch from Bev’s store last week.