

Name: _____

Dialogue Tags & Action Beats

Dialogue tags and action beats are two ways that authors identify who is speaking. They can appear at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of speech. However, they work and are formatted differently.

Dialogue tags use a speech verb. They are part of the same sentence as the speech. Periods that end speech before a dialogue tag are replaced by commas. Other punctuation stays the same. Unless they begin with a proper noun, dialogue tags that follow speech begin with lowercase letters.

Mom shouted, "It's time for bed!" "I'm fine," Ivy grumbled.

"This movie," he said, "stinks." "Hello?" she called.

↳ comma and lowercase because the spoken words are one complete sentence



1. We should do our report on Egypt Emerie suggested.
2. Next Friday Mrs. Barajas said we have our field trip.
3. Samir eagerly raised his hand I know the answer!
4. Abel proudly declared I made dinner all by myself.
5. I'm totally ready for a nap I slumped in my chair.
6. Do you know the time Grandpa asked.

Name: _____

Dialogue Tags & Action Beats

7. Most scientists call them jellies the tour guide explained because they aren't really fish.
8. Haven repeated slowly Don't forget to set your alarm.
9. Lucien looked out the window Wasn't it supposed to rain?
10. Are you hungry Talia peeked around the doorframe We've got plenty of leftovers if you are.



13. The bathroom Rayan advised, pointing is that way.

Use correct punctuation and capitalization to write speech that uses a dialogue tag. Then write speech that uses an action beat. You may place your dialogue tag and action beat in any location.

14. Dialogue Tag

15. Action Beat

ANSWER KEY

Dialogue Tags & Action Beats

Dialogue tags and action beats are two ways that authors identify who is speaking. They can appear at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of speech. However, they work and are formatted differently.

Dialogue tags use a speech verb. They are part of the same sentence as the speech. Periods that end speech before a dialogue tag are replaced by commas. Other punctuation stays the same. Unless they begin with a proper noun, dialogue tags that follow speech begin with lowercase letters.

Mom shouted, "**I**t's time for bed!" "I'm fine," Ivy grumbled.

"This movie," **h**e said, "**s**tinks." "Hello?" **s**he called.

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



ANSWER KEY

Dialogue Tags & Action Beats

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



any location.

14. Dialogue Tag

Answers will vary.

15. Action Beat

Answers will vary.
