

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dialogue Tags vs. Action Beats

**Dialogue tags** identify speakers by using a speech verb. They are part of the same sentence as the speech. They can appear at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of speech.

Mom shouted, "It's time for bed!" "I'm fine," Ivy grumbled.  
"This movie," he said, "stinks." "Hello?" she called.

**Action beats** identify speakers by describing a non-speech action they perform. They are separate sentences from the speech. They can appear in the same places as dialogue tags, but they use different punctuation and capitalization since they are separate sentences.

Mom put her hands on her hips. "It's time for bed!" "I'm fine." Ivy kicked the floor.



5. "Look at that!" She pointed wildly. "Do you see it?" \_\_\_\_\_
6. The student mumbled tiredly, "I can't wait to go home." \_\_\_\_\_
7. Amelia drummed her fingers. "This is taking forever." \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Did you do the homework?" he whispered urgently. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Nina announced in a high-pitched voice, "It wasn't me!" \_\_\_\_\_
10. "Are you sure?" Dad asked. "That's not what I was told." \_\_\_\_\_
11. "Madison broke the vase!" Jacob suddenly blurted out. \_\_\_\_\_
12. The fans pumped their fists in the air. "Go, Wildcats, go!" \_\_\_\_\_
13. "What time is it?" Pablo checked the clock. "It's that late?" \_\_\_\_\_
14. "You may begin your tests." Mr. Myers started the timer. \_\_\_\_\_
15. "It's a deciduous tree," Ella explained. "It loses its leaves yearly." \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER KEY

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