

# AGADIR FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL

## Method for Writing Dialogues

### Remember

- The dialogue gives information about the characters, their opinion, feelings, emotions, their social background, their relationships...
- The reader should imagine that he is actually hearing people talking.

### Before writing your dialogue

- read the instructions carefully a couple of times ;
- identify who speaks and grasp their relationship ;
- understand the meaning of the text ;
- understand the purpose of the dialogue;
- understand the context ;
- find elements/hints that will help you find the tone of the dialogue.

### Dialogue Structure

**Reminder** : there are a few differences between dialogues in French and in English such as :

- Quotation marks : English : "... " vs french : « ... »
- No hyphen
- The subject is before the verb: English = "she said" vs French : « dit-elle »
- Change line each time somebody different speaks.
- Only what is being said is between quotation marks
- Sometimes you can write a play extract  
eg : Tariq (anxiously) : have you revised the dialogue method ?  
Hamza (laughing) : of course not !

### Introduction

- Place ;
- Time ;
- Main characters.

### Make it sound genuine

- Tags : John will come, won't he ?
- Short answers : I think so... I don't think so... I hope not... I'm afraid not... (see list)
- Gap fillers and verbal expressions (see list)
- Contractions: I've had... He's been... He'd come...
- Interruptions

### Vocabulary

Some useful adverbs : Happily, calmly, guiltily, Lovingly, thoughtfully, funnily, secretly, politely, sadly, carefully, quickly, nastily, wickedly, nicely, horribly, angrily, sweetly, suddenly, angrily, anxiously, bitterly, cheerfully, curiously, desperately, dryly, furiously, gratefully, impatiently, kindly, loudly, proudly, quietly, reluctantly, rudely, sadly, scornfully, shyly, sincerely, uneasily, arrogantly, awkwardly  
You can also use expressions such as "with/without anger, fear..."

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## Introductory verbs List

(given in the preterit)

### Reporting

<b>added</b>	to enhance an argument
<b>advised</b>	to warn, to offer help
<b>called</b>	to capture attention by increased volume
<b>complained</b>	to express dislike or disagreement
<b>congratulated</b>	to give wishes; to acknowledge an action or deed
<b>continued</b>	to further or add to an earlier point
<b>stated</b>	to say or paraphrase from official documents
<b>announced</b>	to declare formally and or publicly
<b>asserted</b>	to state positively but having no proof
<b>commented</b>	to explain, interpret, or criticize / make a remark
<b>declared</b>	to make known clearly and openly
<b>informed</b>	to give information, to make known; declare
<b>observed</b>	to mention casually
<b>mentioned</b>	to state briefly; to bring up in conversation
<b>protested</b>	to formally or openly disagree
<b>quoted</b>	to repeat words of others; to cite a source
<b>recalled</b>	to remember or bring up
<b>related</b>	to make connection; to say allegorically
<b>reminded</b>	to remember; to mention so as not to forget
<b>remarked</b>	to make a brief, casual statement of an opinion
<b>remembered</b>	to recall
<b>repeated</b>	to say again; to restate
<b>replied</b>	to answer; to say in response
<b>reported</b>	to give a formal statement; to give an account of
<b>reassured</b>	to give additional comfort, support, or evidence
<b>revealed</b>	to make known; to publish

### Explaining

<b>answered</b>	to respond to a question
<b>asserted</b>	to add or offer additional information
<b>assured</b>	to soothe, comfort, calm
<b>broke in</b>	to interrupt, supplying additional information
<b>claimed</b>	to assert or maintain; to state as fact
<b>concluded</b>	to finish or draw to a close; to understand
<b>confided</b>	to let in on a secret; to disclose
<b>explained</b>	to make or offer an explanation
<b>implied</b>	to suggest, hint, or say without saying
<b>noted</b>	to make mention; to acknowledge
<b>promised</b>	to give word or make a vow
<b>replied</b>	to answer a question or comment
<b>responded</b>	to reply or answer a question or comment

### Arguing

<b>accused</b>	to charge, slander
<b>agreed</b>	to concur, to be in harmony
<b>argued</b>	defend position, disagree or dispute
<b>convinced</b>	persuaded; remove all doubt, win over
<b>disagreed</b>	to be at odds; to not agree
<b>exclaimed</b>	to speak suddenly, loudly with surprise
<b>interrupted</b>	to cut off or disrupt; to interject out of turn
<b>maintained</b>	to assert, to support by argument, to affirm
<b>objected</b>	to disagree; be in opposition to

<b>pleaded</b>	to implore or beg; to speak desperately
<b>proclaimed</b>	to announce officially; support publicly
<b>proposed</b>	to set forth a design or plan
<b>screamed</b>	to use high pitch loud voice
<b>threatened</b>	to say in menacing manner
<b>warned</b>	to make aware in advance of harm, danger
<b>yelled</b>	to shout or use loud voice; scream

### Suggesting

<b>implied</b>	similar to suggest - indicates a definite idea
<b>insinuated</b>	to convey sth unpleasant in a sly, sneaky way
<b>suggested</b>	to propose as a possibility, to imply
<b>urged</b>	To entreat earnestly and often repeatedly; exhort

### Questioning

<b>asked</b>	to question or solicit
<b>begged</b>	to ask in a humble manner earnestly
<b>demanded</b>	to ask for urgently and boldly
<b>guessed</b>	to infer; to ask without evidence
<b>implored</b>	to ask with fervor, implying desperation/distress
<b>inquired</b>	to ask, seek information
<b>insisted</b>	to demand strongly, to declare firmly
<b>requested</b>	to ask (sometimes) formally
<b>wondered</b>	to say with puzzlement or doubt

### Acknowledging

<b>admitted</b>	reluctance to disclose or concede facts
<b>approved</b>	to consent or agree
<b>conceded</b>	similar to acknowledge and admit
<b>confessed</b>	an admission of a weakness, failure, omission, or guilt
<b>corrected</b>	to instruct more correctly; remove misconception
<b>denied</b>	not accepted; unused, refused
<b>greeted</b>	to acknowledge presence; salute, salutation
<b>nodded</b>	to move head up and down in agreement
<b>praised</b>	to speak of with honor; to speak highly of someone
<b>revealed</b>	to make known that which had been secret or hidden
<b>uttered</b>	to articulate; pronounce or speak

### Tone of voice

<b>boomed</b>	to speak with loud, deep, voice; a thunderous sound
<b>cried</b>	to call for help, to shout, to weep, to sob
<b>grumbled</b>	to speak under one's breath; to show disapproval
<b>laughed</b>	to say in fun, joking manner
<b>mumbled</b>	to utter inarticulate or almost inaudible sounds
<b>muttered</b>	to speak in a low, indistinct voice; inarticulate
<b>ordered</b>	to speak demandingly, with authority
<b>shouted</b>	to make a loud cry or call
<b>whispered</b>	to speak softly to avoid being overheard

Source of the list : <http://www.synonyms-antonyms.com> (abridged)

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## Gap fillers and other oral expressions

Um...  
Er...  
Well...  
So...  
Yeah...  
Let me think / see...  
You know ... / You see ... / I mean /  
you see/know what I mean  
If you see what I mean  
What I mean is...  
Do you see what I mean?  
The thing/problem/point is...  
Anyway  
what I'm trying to say is...  
How can I say this,...  
It's a sort / kind of...  
I suppose/guess so  
In a way...  
Actually / Basically  
You can't be serious  
Are you kidding ?  
You didn't ! / you don't !  
I am ! I do !  
I can't believe it !  
Are you sure ?  
Let's see  
What about you ?  
Wow/ Great / Super  
I'm so happy  
Yes, sure  
Certainly  
Of course  
You're wrong  
That can't be true  
That's what you think  
Give me a break

I'm not being silly  
Hold on a minute !  
That's okay  
Thanks  
Never mind  
Go ahead  
Forget it !  
See you !  
Poor you !  
I've got it on the tip on my tongue,...  
Now, to get back to what I was saying...  
Give me a second, ....  
How shall I put it ?  
... just a moment  
..., now, what's the word... ?  
Mind you, I'd also like to say...  
Tell me.  
Tell me something.  
Don't tell me.  
If you say so...  
Do you mean to say?  
Incidentally  
By the way  
Believe me.  
Come on.  
Not at all / Never / No way  
Not a chance  
By all means  
Of course  
Surely / Certainly / Definitely  
So what ?  
In fact  
Exactly / Precisely / Obviously  
By all means  
Alas!