

Writing a

Play Script



twinkl

Characters

Before you begin writing your play script, you will need to think about who your characters are.



Characters

Play scripts usually begin with a list of characters and a little bit of information about each one.



Characters

Here is an example of a character list.



Characters

Maria – an animal-loving young girl with few human friends.

Mrs Sipsmith – Maria's teacher, who's a strict disciplinarian.

Mr Woods – Maria's father, who's a dishonest bank manager.

Mrs Woods – Maria's mother, who hates animals but likes quiz shows and celebrity magazines.

Scenes

Where is the play set?



Scenes

Plays are divided into sections called scenes. Each scene may have a different setting.

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Scenes

A description of the setting is included at the start of each scene.



Scenes

Take a look at this setting description.

Scene 1: The Woods' Living Room

Mr and Mrs Woods are sprawled on the sofa, staring at the TV. Maria is on the floor, playing with her pet kitten.



Narrators

Many play scripts have narrators.



Narrators

Narrators tell the audience what is happening in the story.



Narrators

They do not act and often speak
at the beginning of a new scene.

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Narrators

Let's have a look at an example



Scene 1: The Woods' Living Room

Mr and Mrs Woods are sprawled on the sofa, staring at the TV. Maria is on the floor, playing with her pet kitten.

Narrator: Maria's parents rarely spoke to her. No wonder her only friends were animals. Here they are on a typical Saturday afternoon.

Dialogue

Now that you have decided on characters and where your story is set, you can start writing your play script.



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Dialogue

Think about what your characters will say to each other.



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Dialogue

When writing dialogue, the character name comes first, followed by a colon and what the character says.



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Dialogue

Remember, inverted commas are not used in a play script.



Maria:

Here kitty, catch this.

Mrs Woods:

Shut that cat up!
I'm trying to watch my quiz show.

Maria:

Sorry, Mum.

Mr Woods:

Shh!

Stage Directions

Stage directions can be added in brackets when writing dialogue.



Stage Directions

Stage directions tell an actor what to do or how to speak. They are written in the present tense.



Stage Directions

Actors do not read stage directions aloud.



Stage Directions



Maria: Here kitty, catch this.
(She throws a ball of wool for the kitten, who leaps on it with a loud meow)

Mrs Woods: (crossly) Shut that cat up! I'm trying to watch my quiz show.

Maria: Sorry, Mum.

Mr Woods: Shh! (loudly, turning the TV volume up even more

Writing Your Play Script

Now you are ready to write your own play script.

Remember to include:

- a list of the characters;
- narrators (optional);
- a scene description;
- dialogue;
- stage directions in brackets.



Good luck or, as they say in the theatre, **'break a leg!'**

