

Goth Girl - Dialogue Punctuation



I have the best balance of anyone in Ghastly-Gorm. I never trip, slip or falter.

“I have the best balance of anyone in Ghastly-Gorm. I never trip, slip or falter,” boasted Ada.

How to punctuate Dialogue

What do we know?

✓✓✓
"It wasn't me," complained Martin Puzzlewit. ✓

✓
Mrs Beat'em whirled a spoon, "Throw my good food, will you?"

✓
"I was merely defending myself," he explained. ✓

- ✓ Hug the spoken words with **speech marks**
- ✓ Say who is speaking (**reporting clause**)
- ✓ Use a **capital letter** at the beginning of the spoken words
- ✓ Use a **comma** to separate the clauses – unless you need a ? Or !
- ✓ Start a **new line** for every change of speaker

What errors in punctuation can you spot?

“Do I have to wear these slippers everywhere?” groaned Ada.

Mrs Beat'em bellowed, “^Kkeep out of my kitchen!”

Goth exclaimed, “My visitors will be arriving.”_x “Oh dear,” sighed Ada.

Using Dialogue to give clues about character

Good writers **show** their reader rather than **telling** them.

Mrs Beat'em was bossy and spoke unkindly to the kitchen maids.

Telling

"Agnes, fuddle those eggs!" Mrs Beat'em roared like an enraged sealion, "Maud, bedevil the batter, you idiot!"

Showing

Which has more impact?



Using Dialogue to tell the story

Good writers **show** their reader rather than **telling** them.

Ada did not know about the Attic Club. Emily and William did.

Telling

"Ssshhh! William!" said Emily crossly, "The Attic club's meant to be a secret!"

Showing

The reader has to work a bit harder to find out the facts but it is also more interesting.

Try giving clues in your dialogue today.