

## 7 POINT DIALOGUE CHECKLIST

*Inspired by Write Great Fiction, Dialogue: Techniques and exercises for crafting effective dialogue, Gloria Kempton*

	<b>Dialogue Purpose</b>	<b>How It Can Work</b>	<b>Exercise: Write a tense scene involving</b>
1	Provide new information	You can throw in a zinger and take plot in new direction, point of view character (povc) receives new information that makes them perceive things in a new light, that creates a crisis, that reveals a serious obstacle	A husband and wife move into their dream home and a neighbor gives them information that makes them realize it might be a nightmare home
2	Reveals New Obstacles	Stops povc, creates conflict and povc's need for immediate action, and can provide conflict with the character that told them	What would make you crazy if you couldn't do, or accomplish, or get? Write a scene that opens with the other character announcing that obstacle. Every character will respond differently. It helps if the character thinks it's insurmountable—even if we know otherwise
3	Increases Suspense	Readers can realize a character is manipulating another, can show power differential-when the other character starts realizing, it's trouble. When characters are surprised, feel threatened or attacked, feel something is unjust, suspense is created.	Write a scene including topics of: racism, war, assisted suicide, gay parents, prison reform, homelessness
4	Adds to the Theme	When a character voices the theme, it gives other characters to respond by moving in one direction	Write a scene in which one character voices the theme of the story, say enduring love

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5	Shows Character Transformation	Dialogue after an action can show how profound a change has been--like a change of power	Chose something you feel strongly about, summarize the conflict in a sentence, have a confrontation and response of the protagonist to the challenge that they have to look at something within themselves Wife & husband, boss & employee, mother & daughter
6	Reveals, Reminds about Goals	Knowing what your character wants and showing it through dialogue. Challenging and throwing in obstacles remind us of character goals.	In every scene remind reader of protagonist's goal. Dialogue helps by stating it out loud. Dialogue shows, not tells.
7	Keeping Your Characters in Social Settings	Readers turn off when characters are alone self-analyzing for very long	Write a scene with a character in conflict within, then bring another character in to develop the conflict externally

Review these functions and check the item on the list to see if you have used dialogue for these purposes in your writing.

Enjoy,

Aletta Bee